

UNDER WRAPS **HOW TO MAKE AN EGYPTIAN MUMMY**

# HISTORY

## REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE  
ISSUE 30 // JUNE 2016 // £4.50



**JFK, SINATRA  
AND THE MOB**

**SECRETS OF  
THE CELTS**

Human sacrifice  
in ancient Britain



# THE SPANISH ARMADA

Was Queen Elizabeth's greatest victory  
really just a lucky break?



**RASPUTIN**

The 'Mad Monk'  
& the Romanovs

**ANIMALS IN THE DOCK**

Elephants, pigs and  
monkeys on trial



**IMAGES OF APARTHEID**

South Africa's troubled  
history in pictures





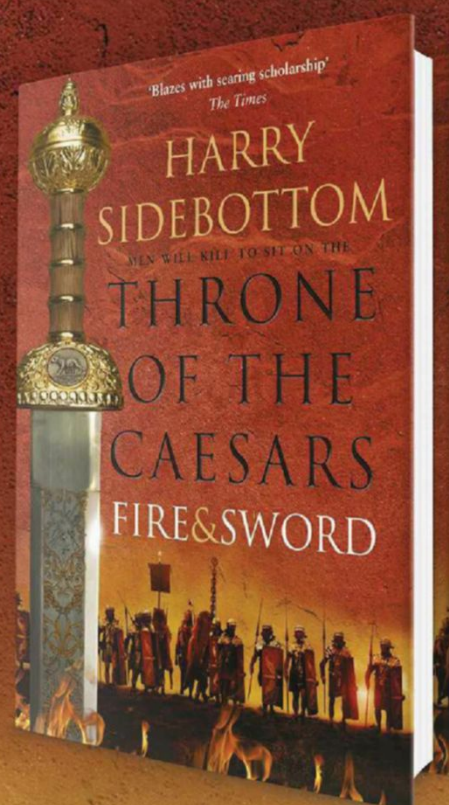
# FATES WILL BE DECIDED BY THOSE WHO DARE TO RULE

‘A storming  
triumph’

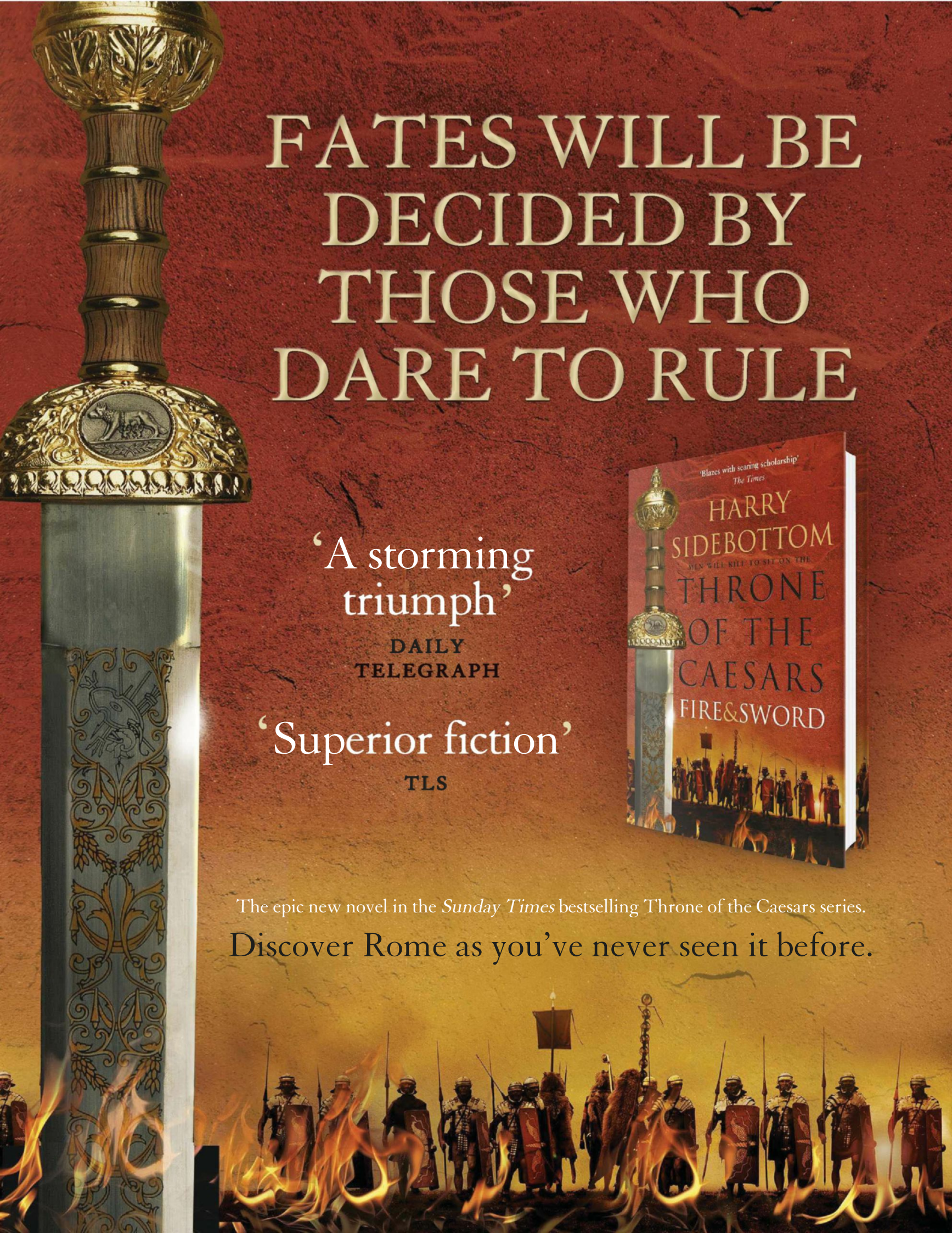
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# Welcome



Mention the **Spanish Armada** and the mental image evoked is of Sir Francis Drake stoically insisting on **finishing his game of bowls** before sending the dastardly Spanish home with their tails between their legs. But what's become known as one of **England's**

**greatest triumphs** was actually far more of a seat-of-the-pants affair than legend would have it. The breathtaking story begins on page 28.

We continue unravelling myths with an enlightening feature about the Celts in Britain (p41), a time when **human sacrifice was the order of the day** in our green and pleasant lands. Travel even further back in time to discover the **secrets of mummification in Ancient Egypt** (p84).

Some of the 20th century's most charismatic characters combine in the gripping story of how **Frank Sinatra enlisted his Mafia mates to help John F Kennedy's** presidential campaign (p61), while the remarkable story of **Rasputin and his influence over the Russian elite** (p55) sounds more like far-fetched fiction than truth.



Sir Francis Drake declared: "We have time to finish the game and beat the Spaniards too!" Or so folklore would have it...

Sticking with the unlikely, be sure not to miss our Top 10 this issue, which features a selection of bizarre tales of **cows, monkeys and moles** being put up on trial for crimes ranging from **crop-spoiling to murder** (p38). The past is a strange place indeed!

*Paul*

Paul McGuinness  
Editor

**Don't miss our July issue, on sale 23 June 2016**

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## ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



## THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

**110.4**

The weight – in kilograms – of Tutankhamun's solid gold inner coffin. See page 84.

**3**

The number of times that Rasputin was shot before dying – as well as being poisoned, beaten and dumped in a freezing river. See page 55.

**16**

How many days the original Alexandra Palace had been open when it was razed in an inferno in 1873. See page 16.



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## ONE BIG WEEKEND

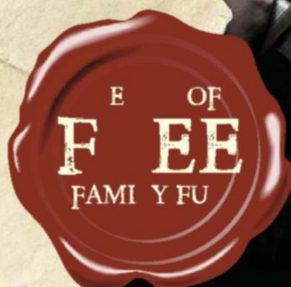
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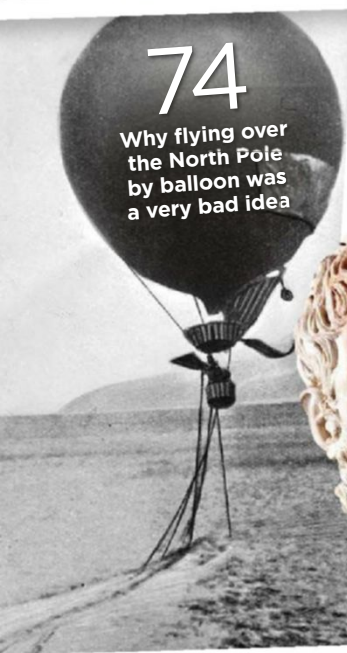
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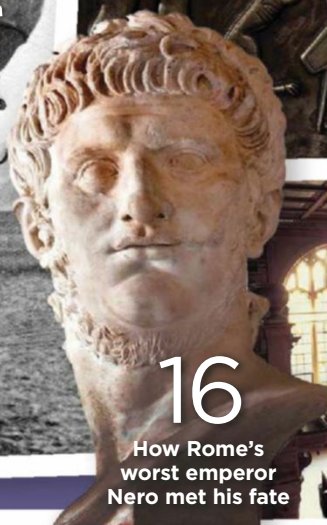
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Hard times  
- when Charles  
Dickens survived  
a train crash



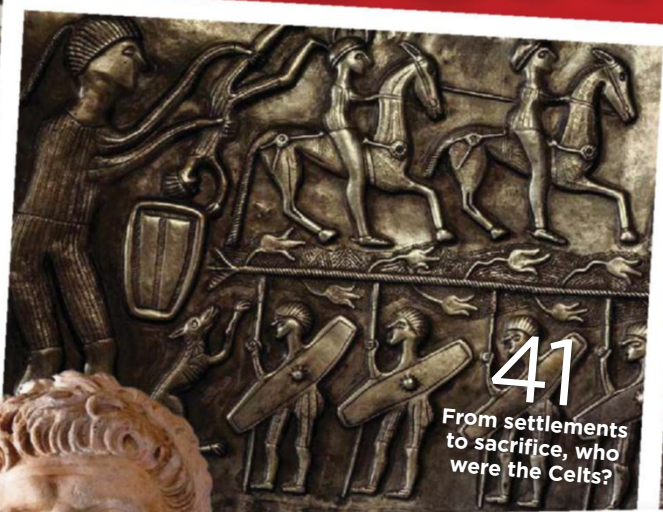
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Why flying over  
the North Pole  
by balloon was  
a very bad idea



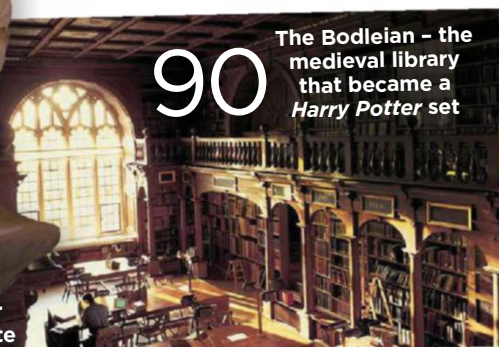
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How Rome's  
worst emperor  
Nero met his fate



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to sacrifice, who  
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The Bodleian - the  
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that became a  
Harry Potter set

# JUNE 2016

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Elizabeth I's  
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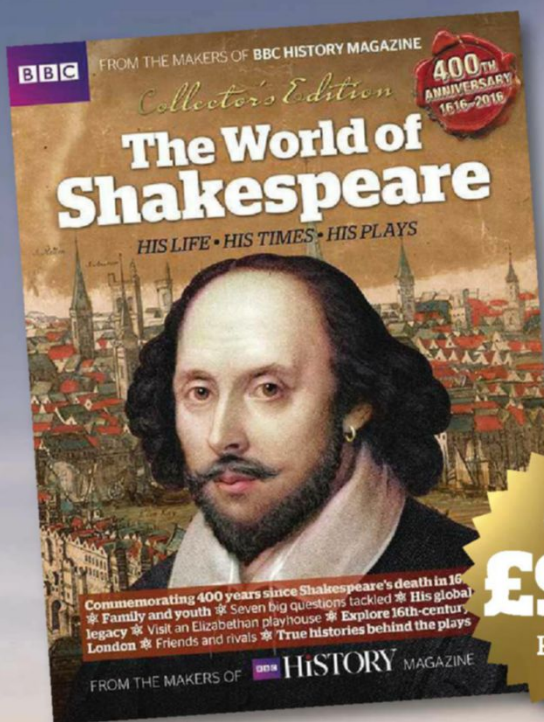




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# READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

## THAT FATEFUL DAY

I am writing to you in response to a letter about Operation Overlord (Letters, May 2016). As one who took part in that operation – landing on Gold Beach on Tuesday 6 June 1944 – I was a member of a small unit of Royal Corps of Signals, whose job was to maintain temporary communications

shrapnel in my leg, but a few of my mates never made it. Shortly after the landings, we were sent to Arromanches, where work had started in constructing the Mulberry Harbour. The effect of this operation was to return to France after the disastrous

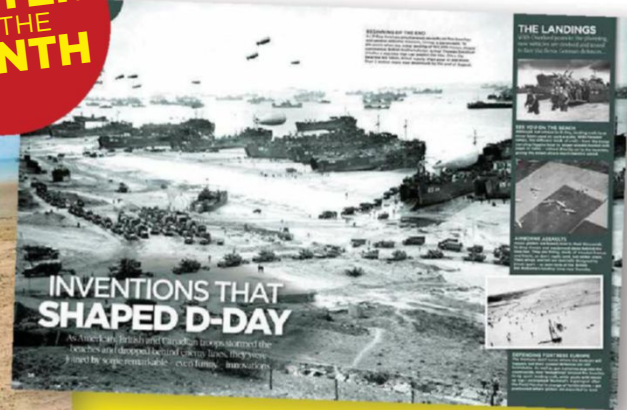
**“I was fortunate to cross the beach unharmed, apart from some shrapnel in my leg”**

with the different regiments on the beachhead. I was a wireless operator.

The events of that day are etched very clearly on my memory (I am nearly 92 years of age now). I was fortunate to cross the beach unharmed, apart from some

defeat of Dunkirk and to bring freedom to the country and the capital, where Hitler and his Nazis had previously marched down the Champs-Élysées. It is interesting to note that, eventually, the French President decided to award the living veterans of Overlord with

LETTER OF THE MONTH



## THE LONGEST DAY REMEMBERED

Neville Henshaw, veteran of D-Day, returns to his landing site on Gold Beach

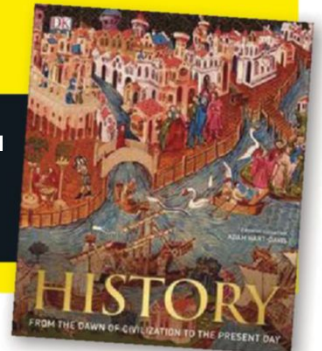
France's highest honour, the 'Legion of Honour'.  
**Neville Henshaw**  
County Down

first-hand testimony of such a crucial time in our history and unsurprising that the events of that day remain so firm a fixture in your memory.

### Editor replies:

Thanks for your letter, Neville. It is always fascinating to hear

Neville Henshaw wins *History: the Definitive Visual Guide* by Adam Hart-Davies. Published by DK, worth £25. With over 3,000 images and eyewitness accounts, this compelling, jam-packed tome charts human civilisation, from ancient history to the 20th century.



If you enjoy #history, or if your kids do, I am reading back through old issues of @HistoryRevMag and grinning. It's a fab magazine. Try it.  
@greg\_jenner

## THE ROOTS OF JIHAD

Thank you for a really interesting magazine – the articles are very informative. However, while reading the article on the Crusades (The Big Story, March 2016), it struck me that various

facts were left out, which distorts the history of the time. When the Pope called Christians to save their brothers in the Middle East, this was in response to Muslims kicking out all Jews and Christians in Jerusalem (prior to this, all three of the world's major religions had peaceably lived side by side for hundreds of years). To then say that this sowed the seeds of jihad again is incorrect. Right from the beginning of

Muhammad's time of claiming to have heard from Allah, he declared jihad on anybody who did not agree with him, and followed this up with various slaughters “of the infidel” wherever he went. The article appeared in places to be more interested in political correctness than historical facts.  
**Nigel French**  
via email

of its Christian inhabitants only took place during the crusaders' advance upon the city in 1099, and was carried out to avoid possible betrayal from within its walls. Furthermore, not all the Jews had been “kicked out” of Jerusalem: many were killed in the slaughter that followed the crusaders' capture of the city. The Islamic World had spread by force in the centuries before the First Crusade, but a war fought for conquest is not jihad. For a war to be jihad, it needs to be fought in self-defence. The Crusades produced those conditions and therefore sowed the seeds for the jihad waged by Nur Al-Din and his successors.

### Writer Julian Humphrys replies:

The ultimate purpose of the various crusades to the Holy Land was the capture or defence of territory. The First Crusade wasn't launched “in response to Muslims kicking out all Jews and Christians living in Jerusalem”. The expulsion

**CRUSADERS' LEGACY**  
The causes and outcomes of the Crusades continue to divide opinion, all these centuries later

## DEADLY WINDS

I read your article on Chernobyl with great interest (Yesterday's Papers, April 2016). The nuclear





nightmare continues to take lives, as well as being the major cause of diseases in new-born children, especially in Ukraine.

I was born in the northern part of Slovakia under the mountains called High Tatras, not far from Ukraine. My entire family was wiped out due to different cancer, one of them a meteorologist. Throughout his active years, he warned the government that radioactive clouds were blown towards Slovakia, with some of the clouds being slowed down by the mountains, spreading radioactivity above the area.

I have lost 19 members of my family to cancer. I'm a cancer survivor myself. There were hundreds of deaths within the High Tatras region – not only family, but friends, families of friends, teachers – it just continues. Counting these losses, I do not think this was a coincidence and believe it happened as my uncle described.

There was no history of cancer within my family whatsoever.

There is now.

**Dr R Pacak**  
via email

## CHILD STAR CHAPLIN

I enjoy your magazine, but your article on Charlie Chaplin (Time Capsule, May 2016) left me puzzled. The picture of him with his family states he was 60 in 1959. Yet the article claims that "he joined a clog-dancing act in 1897". I know he started young in showbiz, but this surely must be some sort of record.

**Jim Duncan**  
via email

## Editor replies:

Unfortunately, basic maths failed us. Chaplin was born in 1889, so celebrated his 70th in 1959.

**f** Sport has often cropped up in history, but I can't think of another occasion where the discovery and reburial of a king (Richard III) has been cited as a reason for a team's success. Could laying the final ruler of the House of York really be behind Leicester City's unlikely winning of the league? Maybe yes, maybe no, but it's a nice story all the same.  
Gabby Cancellio



## TOO EARLY A START

Thanks to Jim for pointing out our typo, which made out that Charlie Chaplin began performing before he had been born!

## LIKE A TON OF BRICKS

Having read your article about unusual taxes (Top 10, April 2016), how about the tax on bricks? It was imposed on brick manufacturers in 1784 and withdrawn in 1850. Initially, the tax was four shillings per 1,000 bricks, but eventually rose to 5/10d. When one thinks of the millions of bricks used by Victorian engineers on viaducts, aqueducts, railway tunnels and bridges, it must have been extremely lucrative.

Some manufacturers went out of business being unable to

pay the tax. Others countered by doubling the size of the bricks, effectively halving the tax. At Measham, Leicestershire, Joseph Wilkes created oversized bricks, the 'Wilkes Gobs' – several buildings still exist with them. Pity the poor hod carrier!

**Peter Charlton**  
Derbyshire

**f** A good variety of topics! I'm in love with the Plantagenets – especially Henry II – so anything about them please!  
Ozymandias Egg

## CORRECTIONS

• The book review of Trevor Royle's *Culloden* (May 2016) placed the Battle of Culloden in 1745 (rather than 1746) and erroneously stated an "English army" was involved – the English fought on both sides.

• In Charles II: the Merry Monarch on the Run (May 2016), there were some geographical errors, including the claim that Moseley Old Hall is in Warwickshire, not its real location of Staffordshire. Thanks to Paul Quinton for pointing out the errors.

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 28 are:  
**C Deacy**, Cheshire  
**M Priestman**, Surrey  
**TG Davies**, Greater Manchester  
Congratulations! You've each won *The Times History of Britain's Railways*, by Julian Holland, worth £30.

To test those little grey cells with this month's crossword, turn to page 96.

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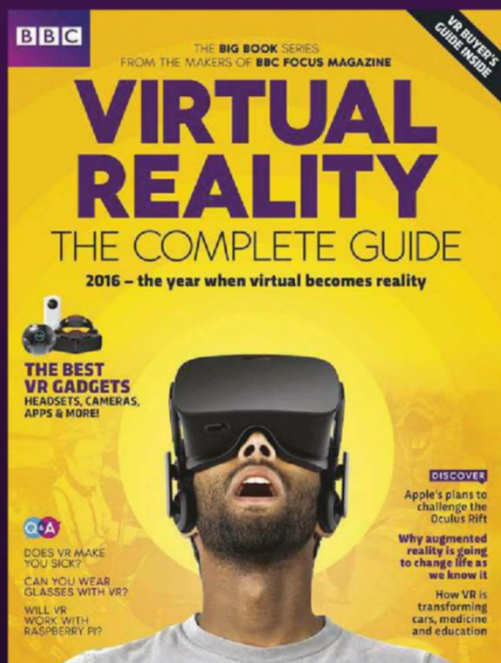




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# TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

SNAPSHOT

## 1897 VICTORIA PARADE

On a bright 22 June 1897, the churchyard of St Paul's Cathedral echoes with cheers and applause as Queen Victoria's carriage, pulled by eight cream-coloured horses, passes through. This marks the end of a six-mile procession through London, lined by soldiers from all over the British Empire, and the start of an open-air service to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. The 78-year-old monarch – whose increasing frailty confines her to the carriage that day – writes in her diary that evening, "A never to be forgotten day. The cheering was quite deafening and every face seemed to be filled with real joy."









**TIME CAPSULE**  
**JUNE**







**SNAPSHOT**

# 1918 WAR HORSE

Even as the end of World War I approaches, gas attacks remain an ever-present threat on the Western Front – not only for these German soldiers, but their horses as well.

The four long years saw a clash of two ages of combat, where cavalry of the past met with weapons of previously unseen destruction. Gas masks had to be improvised once chemical warfare began in 1915, but the equine animals would often eat holes in the material, confusing them for feedbags. Around 8 million horses perished during the war, used either in doomed charges or as beasts of burden.





**TIME CAPSULE**  
**JUNE**







SNAPSHOT

1971

## OFF TO GLASTO

Good luck to all Glastonbury-goers hoping to camp as close to the Pyramid Stage this year as in 1971. Although entry to the second Glastonbury festival is free (that's right, free!), boasts a line-up including David Bowie, Fairport Convention and Melanie, and a one-tenth replica of the Great Pyramid of Giza as a stage, only around 12,000 hippies descend on Pilton, Somerset, for the 'Glastonbury Fayre'. It isn't until the 1980s that this antidote to over commercialised festivals really takes off.





## TIME CAPSULE JUNE

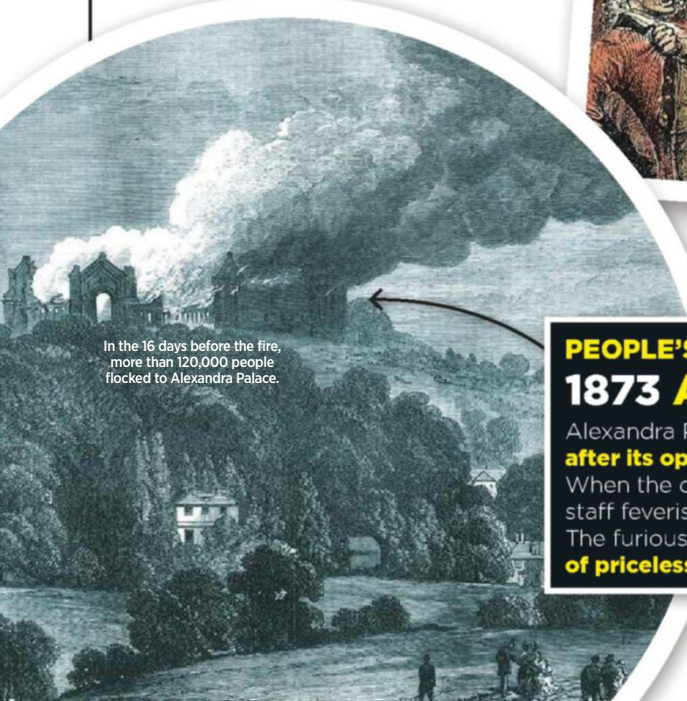
### "I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **June**



#### TAKE THE WATERS OF LIFE 1495 WHISKY'S FOUNDING FATHER

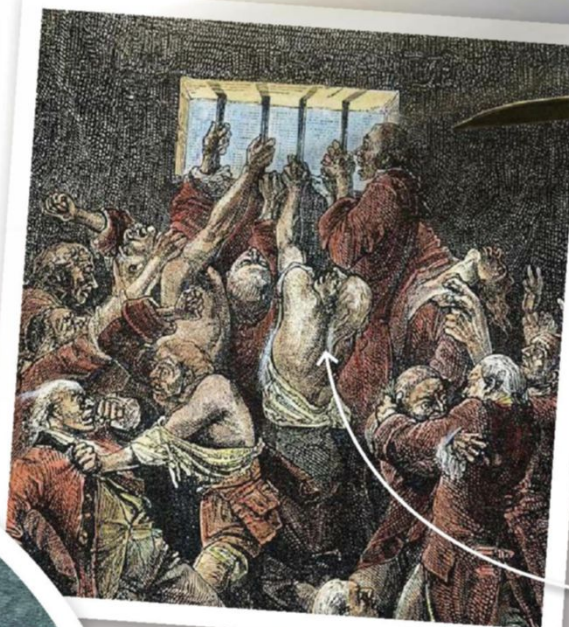
The dram-guzzling father of Scotch whisky was 15th-century friar John Cor. In the earliest record, from 1 June 1495, to "**aqua vitae**" – which means 'water of life' – Cor was asked by King James IV to distil whisky from eight "bolls of malt". That was enough for a whopping **1,500 bottles** of the amber potion.



In the 16 days before the fire, more than 120,000 people flocked to Alexandra Palace.

#### PEOPLE'S PALACE ALL ABLAZE 1873 ALLY PALLY PYRE

Alexandra Palace in London lasted just **16 days after its opening** before it went up in smoke. When the dome ignited on 9 June 1873, brave staff feverishly began gathering up the valuables. The furious blaze claimed **three lives**, a **display of priceless china** and a **£30,000 organ**.



#### A "NIGHT OF HORRORS" 1756 BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA

On 20 June 1756, 146 British prisoners of war were crammed into a tiny Calcutta dungeon. The next morning, **only 23 walked out**. According to survivor John Z Holwell, the rest succumbed to suffocation, crushing and the heat in their **5.5-by-4-metre cell**. Holwell's account of the 'Black Hole of Calcutta' was a sensation, proving to many Brits the righteousness of **imperialism against barbarism**. The truth of how many died in Holwell's "night of horrors", however, is still debated.

#### CASH IN HAND 1967 SHOW ME THE MONEY

When British inventor John Shepherd-Barron struck upon the idea of a device like a **chocolate-bar dispenser**, but for **£10 notes**, the cash machine was born. Installed in the Enfield branch of Barclays, London, the hole-in-the-wall was put to the test on 27 June 1967 – the first transaction made by **TV star Reg Varney** (of *On the Buses* fame).

#### CONTAMINATED CASH

The first cash machine didn't use plastic cards, but cheques with radioactive traces. Shepherd-Barron insisted a person would have to eat 136,000 cheques before feeling any effect.







## PUBLIC ENEMY NO 1

### AD 68 NERO TO ZERO

After 14 years of Nero's despotic rule – which included murders, **mass executions**, high taxes and brutal persecution of Christians – the Romans finally ran out of patience with their debauched emperor in AD 68, and declared him a public enemy. Nero fled Rome and took his own life on 9 June by **stabbing himself in the neck**. Some accounts say **he was too scared**, so made someone else go first.

## “...OH BOY”

June events that changed the world

### 2 JUNE AD 455 BLOODY VANDALS!

Treasures are looted and buildings damaged when Vandals sack Rome.

### 3 JUNE 1162 BECKET HITS THE BIG TIME

Following his ordination the previous day, Thomas Becket is consecrated as Archbishop of Canterbury.

### 20 JUNE 1214 FRESHERS WEEK

A charter is issued to the University of Oxford, formalising scholarly education already taking place in the city.

### 14 JUNE 1777 STARS AND STRIPES

During the American Revolutionary War, the United States adopts a new flag with 13 stripes and 13 stars.

### 21 JUNE 1791 SCREWY LOUIS

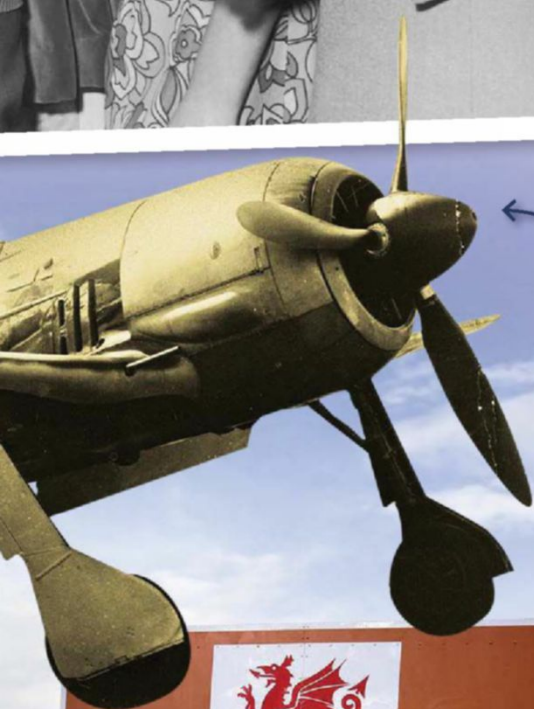
Louis XVI of France flees revolution-filled Paris, but is caught within 24 hours.

### 24 JUNE 1859 RED CROSS ROOTS

Swiss businessman Jean-Henri Dunant's account of the Battle of Solferino helps establish the International Red Cross.

### 2 JUNE 1953 LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

Queen Elizabeth II is crowned in front of 8,000 guests at a lavish ceremony in Westminster Abbey.



### CARDIFF OR CALAIS? 1942 NAVIGATION NIGHTMARE FOR NAZI PILOT

What a day Armin Faber had on 23 June 1942. Caught in a dogfight over England, the Luftwaffe pilot got all turned about – literally. He **headed north over the Bristol Channel** instead of south over the English Channel. So what he believed to be a safe landing spot in Nazi-occupied France was, in fact, Wales. He was arrested, driven to interrogation and almost shot – the car went over a pothole, causing the gun pointed at his head to fire. What's more, he had **handed his Focke-Wulf 190 to the Allies**, who were desperate to discover the secrets of the fighter.

### WE WANT OUR BALL BACK!

### 1763 A DOUBLE LACROSSE

Lacrosse is dangerous, but it was never more deadly than on 2 June 1763. On that hot day during Pontiac's War, a Native American rebellion, **500 or so Ojibwe and Sauk warriors** started a game of *baaga'dowe* – an early form of lacrosse – outside the British Fort Michilimackinac (in modern Michigan).

The British became so engrossed in the game, they failed to notice some Native American women milling around wearing thick blankets, despite the heat. When the **ball was hit near the fort gates**, the women handed out hidden tomahawks and knives to the players, who stormed the stronghold before the 35-strong garrison had time to react.



### AND FINALLY...

One Saturday in June 1878, a Mrs Marion Hillitz passed away in hospital – and woke up again. To the shock of the nuns watching over her, Hillitz declared, **“I am not dead yet, but I will die soon!”**, before dancing and singing.





# Daily Mirror

3d. Monday, June 17, 1963

No. 18,503



Valery Bykovsky

**Laughing Valentina**  
**('I'm feeling fine')**  
**spins on towards**  
**her historic date**



Valentina Tereshkova

# BOY MEETS GIRL IN SPACE TODAY?

The Profumo Scandal

## 'OPERATION WHITEWASH'

IT was "Operation Whitewash" this weekend, with every available Cabinet Minister and Tory spokesman sweeping up as much of the Profumo dirt as possible before today's crucial debate.

Be fair to them in their plight. They did not try to conceal their dismay and they did not attempt to gloss over the facts about the Profumo scandal.

But hands were on hearts, consciences were displayed on sleeves, and haloes were carried "at the ready."

"It is silly to make a Party issue of this," said Lord Hailsham, raising the curtain with quivering rage on television. "This is a national moral issue."

## MIRROR COMMENT

As if the entire British public had been caught in bed with Miss Keeler.

## WE HAVE A PROBLEM

It has recently been revealed that **Tereshkova had to report a fault on Vostok 6**, which would have sent the craft out into space if not corrected. She was asked to keep the error secret for decades.

Hailsham, (thinks it is a Party (or, at any rate, a political) issue and not a national issue.

Mr. Maudling, the Chancellor, did not minimise the seriousness of the Profumo case. But—

"I emphatically repudiate, and indeed bitterly resent these generalised

**Continued on Page Two**



## Russians plan a rendezvous 140 miles up

**SPACEGIRL** Valentina Tereshkova, 26, may keep a historic date in Space today with 28-year-old cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky.

Yesterday Valentina, the first woman in Space, was blasted into an orbit almost identical to that of Bykovsky, who went up Friday.

They are expected to try to link up their Spaceships as they speed more than 140 miles above the Earth.

## Bigger

As soon as her Spaceship, Vostok VI, was settled in orbit, Valentina (call sign "Seagull") spoke on the radio to Valery (call sign "Hawk") in Vostok V. British Space scientists to whom I talked last night think that Valentina will keep Vostok VI on its planned course while Bykovsky catches her up in orbit.

Bykovsky is believed to be piloting a much bigger Spaceship—probably weighing up to ten tons and fitted with auxiliary rocket motors.

## Link-up

The motors will enable him to manoeuvre Vostok V until it is sufficiently close to Vostok VI for the two craft to be joined.

This could happen some time today—though the Russians might leave the actual link-up until later this week, when they have had

by  
**RONALD BEDFORD**  
Mirror Science Editor

more time to calculate the precise positions in Space of the two craft. The Americans—who will not be able to attempt the feat until Autumn next year—call this kind of get-together the "rendezvous technique."

Joining two craft in orbit is the next major advance in the Space race.

It paves the way for the building of a Space station or platform, which would serve as a staging post for trips to the Moon or beyond.

## Excited

Bachelor-girl Valentina was blasted away from Russia's "Cape Canaveral" at Baykonur, in Kazakhstan, at 9.30 a.m. yesterday. Soon after take-off, Moscow Radio beamed her excited voice to millions of Russians.

Valentina cried: "Here is Seagull. I see a yellow strip. I see the Earth. Everything is in order. I'm feeling fine. The machine is working well."

In London, radio monitors heard her say to Soviet Space headquarters: "Thank you for your congratulations."

Later, pictures of Valentina, laughing and smiling, were flashed on to Soviet television screens.

The highest point of Valentina's orbit is 144 miles, the lowest, 113 miles. Valery Bykovsky's

## COUNTDOWN IN RED SQUARE

**T**HE time is two minutes past three by the clock in Moscow's Red Square. Two thoughtful young people are counting the hours to an adventure in Space. They are

Lieutenant-Colonel Valery Bykovsky and the world's Spacegirl No. 1, Lieutenant Valentina Tereshkova. They are expected to keep a date in Space, soon—and it may be today.

**Continued on Back Page**



## YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **17 June 1963**, the voyage of the first woman in space made headlines

# “HEY SKY, TAKE OFF Y \_ O\_U\_R \_ H\_A\_T! I’M COMING TO SEE YOU!”

**T**he Soviet Union took a comfortable early lead in the Space Race – they sent up the first satellite (Sputnik), animal (Laika the dog) and man (Yuri Gagarin). Then, in mid-1963, the Russians were first to put a woman into orbit.

Valentina Tereshkova had volunteered for cosmonaut training in the wake of Gagarin’s historic flight in 1961. She wrote a letter begging to go to space, citing amateur parachuting as her experience, and was selected as her poor textile worker image fit the Soviet ideal of a proletarian hero.

On the morning of 16 June 1963, Lieutenant Tereshkova – codenamed ‘Seagull’ – boarded Vostok 6, clad in an orange spacesuit and a white helmet emblazoned with ‘СССР’ (the abbreviation of the Soviet Union). The launch took place without a hitch as a smiling 26-year-old Tereshkova beamed: “Hey sky, take off your hat! I’m coming to see you!”

Her initial jubilation was slightly marred by nausea and discomfort in the 2.3-metre-wide capsule. It has recently been revealed that Tereshkova also forgot her toothbrush, so had to use her finger. Yet she logged more flight time than all the American astronauts combined at that point, completing 48 orbits in 71 hours, and she successfully communicated with fellow cosmonaut, veteran Valery Bykovsky, when her craft came within three miles of his Vostok 5.

Following her safe return on 19 June, Tereshkova was whisked to a grand ceremony in Moscow. In attendance was Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev, who gave Tereshkova a hug before the crowd, both to welcome her home and to show off his nation’s dominance in space. Tereshkova never left Earth again. ☉

### GOOD SOVIET

RIGHT: **Valentina Tereshkova in the final preparations before her launch**

BELOW: **At the celebrations, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev raises the hands of his cosmonauts Tereshkova and Valery Bykovsky**



### ONE SMALL STEP FOR WOMAN

Tereshkova became a useful figure in Soviet propaganda. Under pressure from the leadership, she **married fellow cosmonaut Andriyan Nikolayev** and entered politics.

## 1963 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

**11 JUNE** Governor George Wallace blocks the entrance of the University of Alabama to **prevent two black students from entering**, but is ordered to comply with integration by President Kennedy.

**11 JUNE** To protest the South Vietnamese government’s persecution of Buddhists, monk Thich Quang Duc **burns himself to death in Saigon** – photos of the self-immolation cause global outrage.

**12 JUNE** Blockbuster *Cleopatra* enjoys its premiere in New York. Despite box-office success, the film’s \$44 million budget (over \$330 million today) **almost bankrupts the studio**, 20th Century Fox.





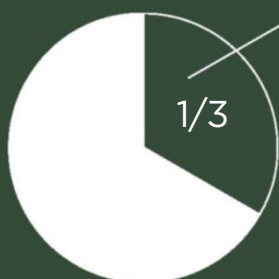
## GRAPHIC HISTORY

The pivotal turn in road safety

# 1935 TESTING ALL DRIVERS

On 1 June 1935, driving tests were made compulsory in the UK, prompting a whole wave of road-safety measures...

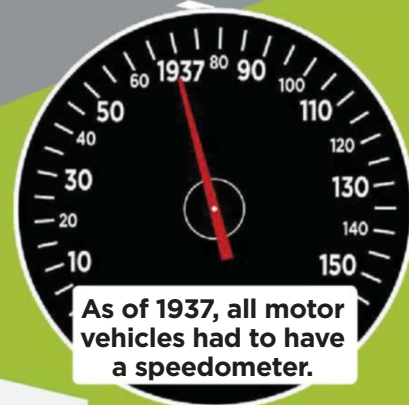
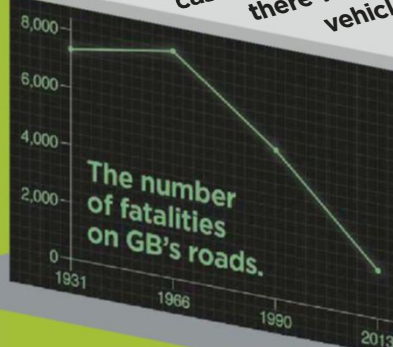
**The Highway Code** was launched in 1931, at a cost of 1 penny. It was just 24 pages long.



The proportion of The Highway Code that focused on the hand signals that road users must know.

**10** The number of different road signs in 1931.

In 1931, there were 178,000 road casualties in Britain. In 2013, when there were at least 17 times as many vehicles on the road, the number of casualties was 181,957.



Lorry licences and practical tests were introduced on 16 February 1934.

**30** mph speed limits were first introduced in 1935.

**POST OFFICE**

In 1935, the first driving licences had to be purchased at the Post Office, at a cost of 5 shillings.

Using a handheld mobile phone while driving was made illegal in 2003.



Some **2 million** speeding tickets are given out each year.

BEFORE



Before seat belts were made compulsory in 1983, only 40% front-seat passengers buckled up - afterwards, the figure rose to 90%

AFTER





## THE OPEN ROAD

Britain's first motorway was opened on 5 December 1958. The 8.3-mile Preston Bypass (now part of the M6) prompted a new edition of *The Highway Code*, with extra content on motorway driving.

The AA tended over 100 breakdowns in the motorway's first month.

In 1989, motorbike tests were improved in response to high fatality numbers. A pursuit test was added to make the test more demanding.

Drink-driving laws came into effect in 1967, with a limit of 80mg of alcohol per 100ml blood. In Scotland, this limit was reduced to 50mg of alcohol in 2014.

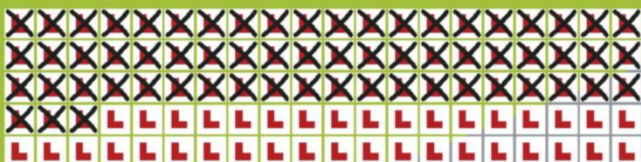
## DURING THE WAR...

Driving tests were abolished in WWII. The examiners took on more essential roles such as traffic duties and fuel rationing.

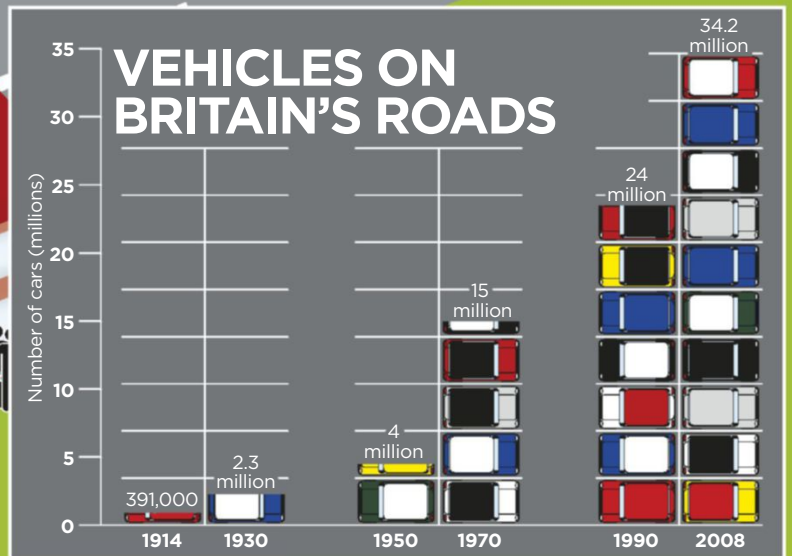
In a record year, demand for tests grew by 35% between 1972-73.

The Green Cross Code was introduced in 1971, leading to an initial drop in casualties of 11%.

More than  
**46 million**  
driving tests have been  
taken since 1935.



The pass rate in 1935 was 63%



## Theory Test

The written theory test of 35 questions was introduced on 1 July 1996. The pass mark was raised from 26 to 30 in October.





## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

A boat-load of Jewish refugees flees Hitler's Germany, only to be turned back

# 1939 THE VOYAGE OF THE DAMNED

*Fleeing persecution in Germany, hundreds of Jews arrive in the Americas to start a new, safer life – or so they thought...*

**T**he rise of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party made life for Jewish people in Germany treacherous. Legal rights were stripped and property confiscated, while anti-Semitic propaganda stirred many to violence – nearly 100 died and thousands were incarcerated during the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom of late 1938. Fearful of worse to come, many Jews looked to flee.

### HOPE TO DESPAIR

On 13 May 1939, luxury ocean liner the SS *St Louis* sailed from Hamburg, carrying 937 Jewish men, women and children on their way to Cuba and then, hopefully, America. They all held valid visas, which were expensive and rare due to restrictive quotas on refugees. Several on board had left family behind in Germany.

Still, the two-week voyage was comfortable, even cheerful. Captain Gustav Schröder ordered his crew to treat passengers with dignity (a far cry from what they were used to), and allowed Friday-night prayers, during which he let Hitler's portrait be taken down.

So it was with optimism that the emigrants glimpsed Havana on 27 May. Yet in Cuba, anti-Jewish feeling had spread – coupled with a reluctance to accept more refugees – leading the government to invalidate visas and prohibit all but a handful

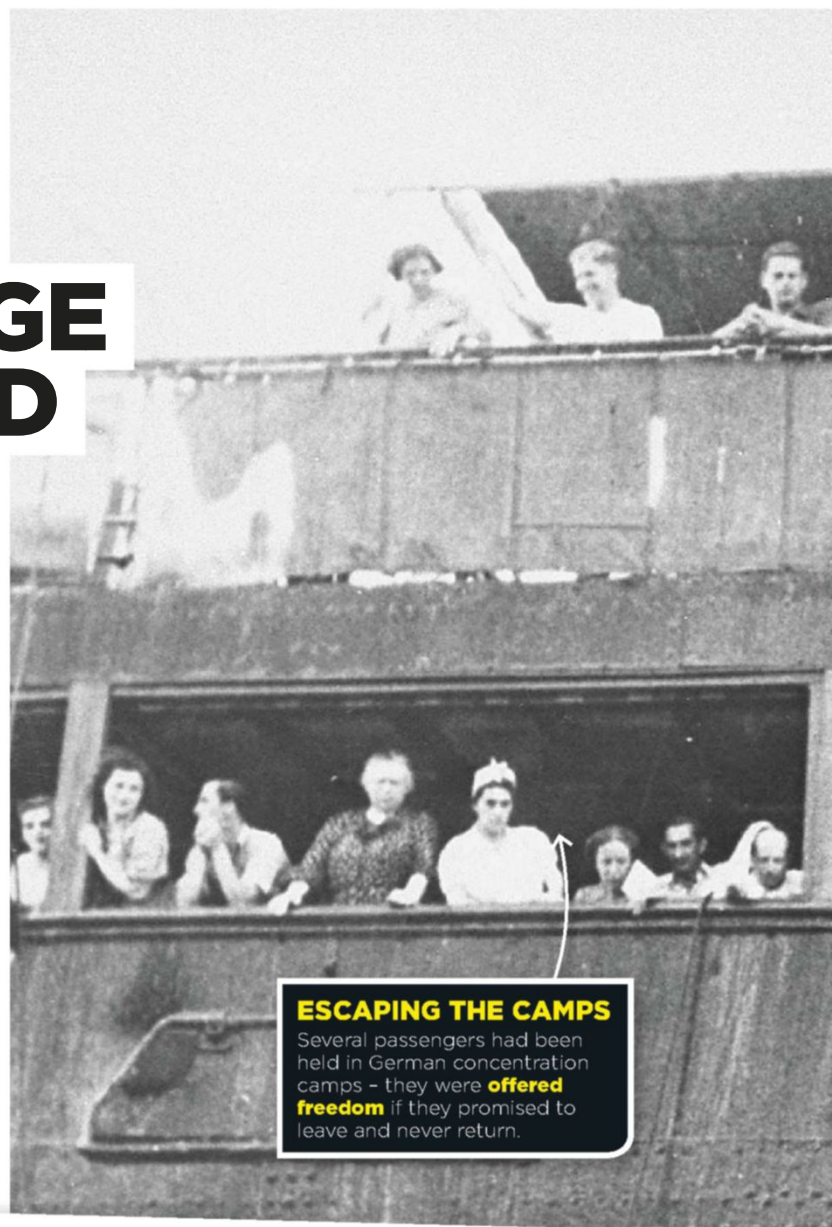
to disembark. For a week, more than 900 were trapped on board, scared, tense, emotional and desperate. One man slit his wrists and jumped into the harbour just so he would be taken to a Havana hospital. When negotiations between Schröder, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Cubans failed, the *St Louis* was told to leave.

Schröder turned the ship to the Florida coast, only to be met with further refusals from American and Canadian authorities. With a heavy heart, he ordered a return to Europe in early June.

### JOURNEY'S END

Weeping passengers stalked the deck, believing they were destined to return to Germany. "What started as a voyage of freedom," read one diary entry, "is now a voyage of doom". But ongoing negotiations finally bore results, and refuge was offered by Britain, Holland, France and Belgium. The ship docked at Antwerp with everyone safe – for now.

World War II broke out later that year, extending Hitler's reach over Europe. During the horrors of the Holocaust, 254 *St Louis* passengers would perish, but that number could have been so much higher. ☹



### ESCAPING THE CAMPS

Several passengers had been held in German concentration camps – they were **offered freedom** if they promised to leave and never return.

**A woman can't hold back her tears, as the *St Louis* is forced to leave Cuba**





**SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR**  
Passengers of the *St Louis*  
look out over Havana harbour,  
Cuba, unable to disembark



**“An indiscernible drama of human concern played on us as we sailed into the twilight of uncertainty.”**

*Josef Joseph, Passenger Committee Chairman of the St Louis*

**The refugees are ordered back onto the *St Louis* in Havana - armed Cuban soldiers supervise from the shore**



**Captain Gustav Schröder, who did he all he could to save his Jewish passengers**



**LAST RESORT**

Rather than take the 900 Jews in his charge back to Germany, Captain Gustav Schröder planned to **wreck the *St Louis* off the British coast** to force a rescue mission.





**OUR MUTUAL END**

On 9 June 1870, **five years to the day** after the Staplehurst disaster, Charles Dickens died, having suffered a stroke.

## THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

How the **Staplehurst rail disaster** affected Britain's beloved author

# 1865 CHARLES DICKENS SURVIVES BRUSH WITH DEATH IN TRAIN CRASH

*When his train derails while crossing a bridge, the celebrated novelist confronted death, despair and destruction to save others – and his work*

**S**hortly after 3pm on 9 June 1865, the daily train from Folkestone, Kent, to London chugged past the small, country station of Headcorn when the driver saw an alarming sight not far up ahead. At the side of the railway stood a man waving a red flag, a sure sign of something amiss on the line ahead.

The driver whistled for the brakes, but it was too late to stop the train, carrying well over 100 passengers. The carriages careened off the rails, sending several over a small viaduct. The quiet town of Staplehurst, Kent, turned to carnage as survivors clambered to get free of the wreckage. The screams of the trapped rang out and bodies littered the ground.

The crash killed ten people, injured 40 more and left one of the most famous writers of the age, Charles Dickens – a first-class passenger that day – greatly disturbed for the rest of his life.

### FATAL MISTAKES

For the last few weeks, workmen had been replacing the timbers

supporting rails in the area. As this involved ripping up lengths of rail, work couldn't begin until they were sure no trains would show up on that section of track.

When the team showed up at the Beult viaduct on 9 June, however, foreman Henry Bengel read his timetable incorrectly, so he thought a train wasn't expected until after 5pm. The South Eastern Railway train from Folkestone, with people just off the ferry from France on board, had been forgotten.

This was only the first of several mistakes that triggered the tragedy. It was regulation to position a man with a red flag further up the track – 1,000 yards from the work site – so a train would have time to stop in an emergency. But, thanks to a miscalculation, the young man sent that day, John Wiles, stood far short of the required distance.

As another precaution, detonators could be laid on the line to warn drivers of coming danger when the train ran over them, causing a small pop. Wiles

had been told not to use the detonators as it was a clear, sunny day; the flag, they assumed, would be sufficient.

But the train, travelling at nearly 50 miles per hour when the driver saw the flag, didn't have the distance required to stop. It screeched towards the missing line over the viaduct, hitting it at 3.13pm while still moving at a dangerous speed. The engine, tender and first carriage bowled across the cast-iron bridge, while the middle of the train was thrown over the side, falling 3 metres into the muddy riverbed below.

### WOES OF THE WRITER

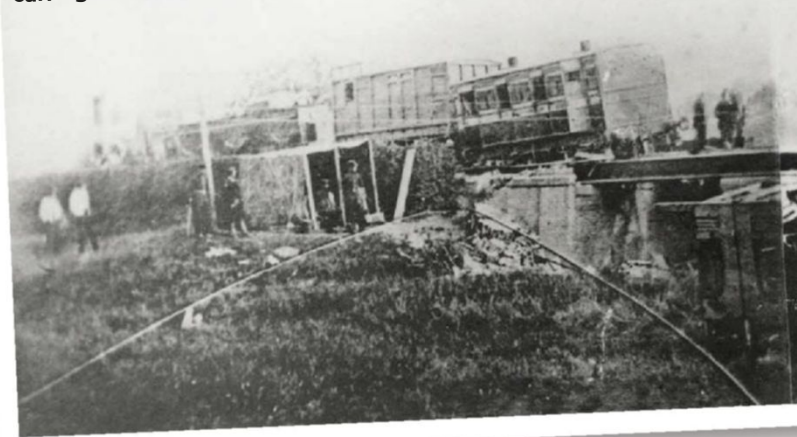
On board was Dickens, who had already been a famous writer for some three decades (since the success of *The Pickwick*

### TROUBLED SOUL

Charles Dickens (photographed before the crash) never recovered from his experiences

### OFF THE RAILS

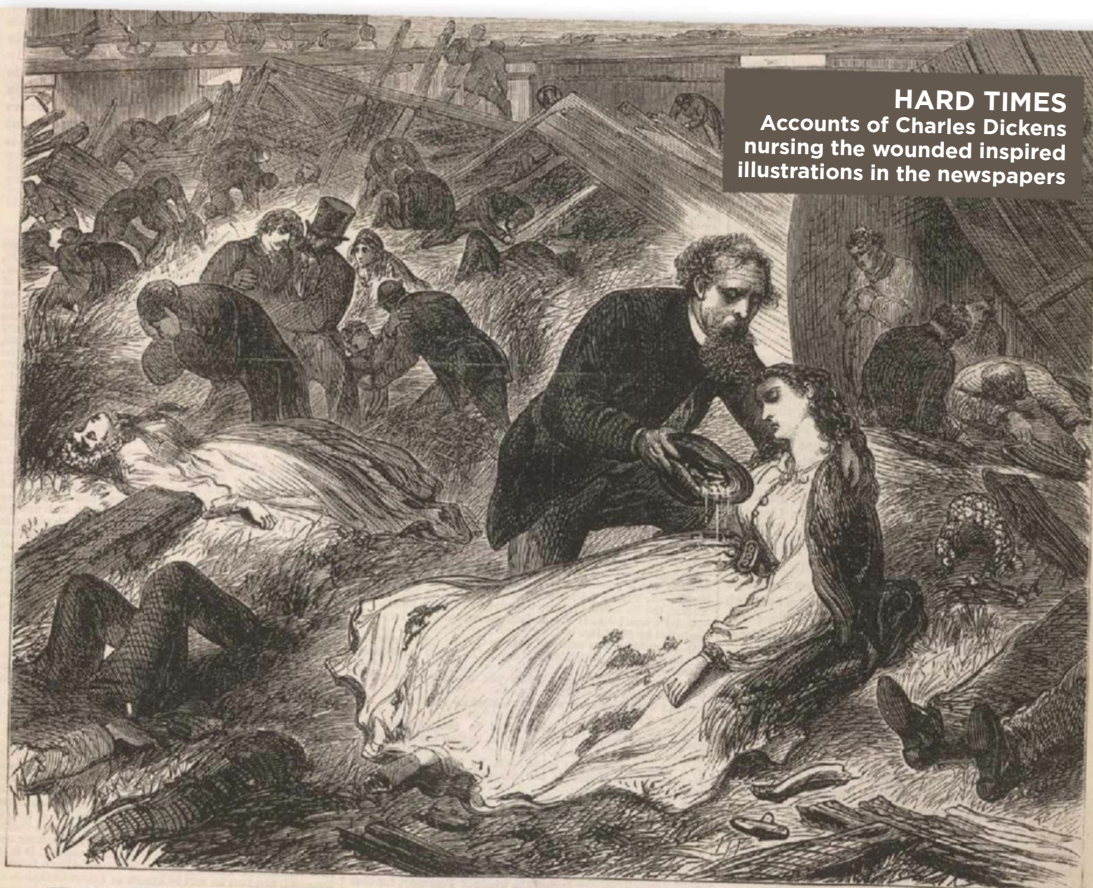
This composite of the carnage reveals how fortunate it was for Charles Dickens' carriage to stay on the tracks



**"I came upon a staggering man covered with blood with such a frightful cut across the skull that I couldn't bear to look at him."**

*Charles Dickens wrote to school friend Thomas Mitton after the train disaster, describing the scenes in bloody detail*



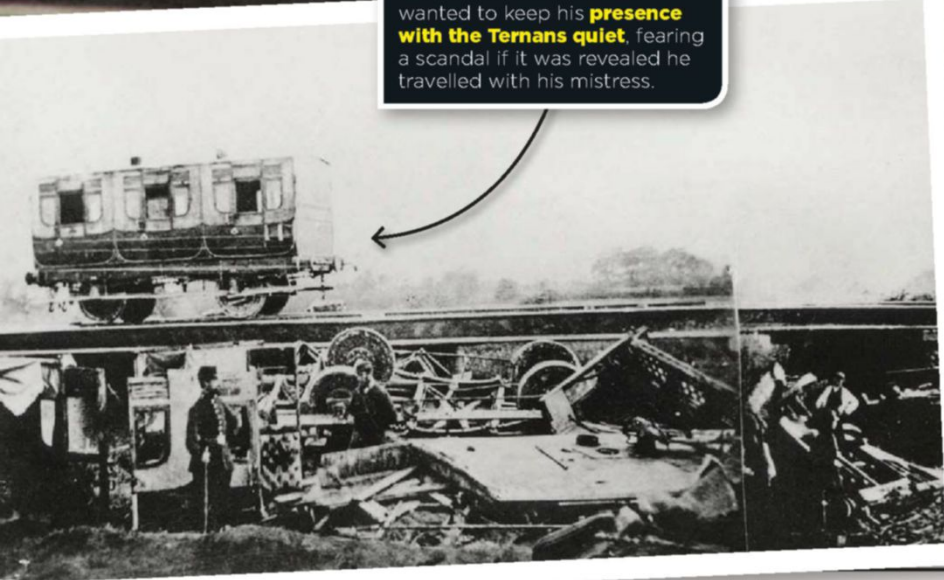


**HARD TIMES**  
Accounts of Charles Dickens  
nursing the wounded inspired  
illustrations in the newspapers

CHARLES DICKENS RELIEVING THE SUFFERERS AT THE FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT, NEAR STAPLEHURST.—SEE "GOSSIPER," PAGE 54.

#### WHAT THE DICKENS?

An inquest was held to establish the details of the disaster. Charles Dickens wanted to keep his **presence with the Ternans quiet**, fearing a scandal if it was revealed he travelled with his mistress.



*Papers*, first published in 1836–37). Dickens accompanied his mistress, actress Ellen Ternan, and her mother as they returned from a holiday across the Channel.

Theirs was the only first-class carriage not to go over the bridge, meaning Dickens could climb out the window and set up a rudimentary platform to allow the Ternans to escape. He then surveyed the scene and set about helping in any way he could. He offered sips of brandy from his flask and filled his hat with water, tending to the injured for hours.

There was little Dickens could do, and he witnessed several men and women die while he was with them. "I am a little shaken," he wrote a few days later to a friend. "Not by the beating and dragging of the carriage in which I was, but by the hard work afterwards in getting out the dying and dead, which was most horrible."

Before he finally walked away from the chaos, he remembered a belonging he had abandoned in the initial panic – the manuscript for his latest work, *Our Mutual Friend*. He climbed aboard the unstable carriage to retrieve it.

Dickens was traumatised by his experiences that day, supposedly losing his voice for two weeks. And for the remainder of his life, Dickens was nervous about travelling by train, going out of his way to use another means of transport if possible.

Not long after the tragedy, the next chapter of Dickens' rescued work was due. In a sign of his turmoil, it came in short and with this poignant postscript: "I remember with devout thankfulness that I can never be much nearer parting company with my readers for ever than I was then, until there shall be written against my life, the two words with which I have this day closed this book: – THE END." 📌



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**GREAT VICTORY  
OR LUCKY ESCAPE?**

Elizabeth I crushed the Spanish Armada, thanks to the enemy's poor strategy, awful weather and some help from her 'Dragon', Francis Drake





CLASH OF NATIONS  
THE SPANISH  
ARMADA, 1588

# THE SPANISH ARMADA

How did the English defeat Spain's 'invincible' fleet, and how did it shape their naval supremacy in centuries to come? **Julian Humphrys** investigates...





## CLASH OF NATIONS THE SPANISH ARMADA, 1588

**A**cross the water, a single burning light moved through the midnight darkness. Then another, and another. Eventually, eight were seen. For the lookouts of the Spanish Armada, it was the sight they'd been dreading. The Spanish knew exactly what these flames were. The English had taken eight ships, packed them with pitch, rags and old timber, daubed the masts and decks with tar and silently sailed them towards the Armada, as it lay anchored off Calais. They'd then set them alight before escaping in boats towed behind the vessels.

The Spanish intercepted two of the blazing ships, but the others drifted on, right into the heart of the fleet. Fear took hold of the Spaniards. Fear that the floating infernos would set their own vessels on fire or, worse still, that they were packed with gunpowder and may explode at any moment. The Spanish captains panicked. Cutting their anchor cables, they made for the safety of the open sea. When dawn broke, the Spanish Armada was scattered out to sea and the English were ready to move in for the kill.



On the face of it, Philip's plan for the invasion of England had been a simple one. A large fleet packed with soldiers would sail up the English Channel, join forces with the Duke of Parma's Spanish army, stationed at Flanders, which

would be waiting for it at Calais, before sailing across to England together. Once ashore, Parma's veteran soldiers would have no trouble in sweeping aside the often shambolic English militia.

But it was a plan full of pitfalls. Not only did the Armada have the ships of their English and Dutch enemies to contend with, they were also at the mercy of the winds and weather – a dangerous state of affairs as they had no channel ports of their own to shelter in. Close co-operation between Parma and the Duke of Medina Sidonia, the

**“The blazing ships drifted on, right into the heart of the Spanish fleet”**



**SMOKE ON THE WATER**  
An English fireship sails through the Channel, taking flames and fear right into the heart of the Armada

fleet Commander, was essential, but this was an age when rapid communications were virtually impossible. To make matters worse, the Marquis of Santa Cruz, Spain's best admiral and the one man who might have brought the enterprise to a successful conclusion, had died in the previous year. Medina Sidonia, his reluctant replacement, was a brave, conscientious man and a fine administrator but he was, by his own admission, no sailor. He told the Spanish

## DEFENDER OF THE REALM

### Queen Elizabeth

On 19 August 1588, Elizabeth addressed her troops at Tilbury. Wearing a man's breastplate and mounted on a white horse, she delivered one of the most famous speeches ever made by a British monarch:

*"I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects... I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king and of a king of England too – and take foul scorn that Parma or any other prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm."*

When Elizabeth made that speech, the ships of the Armada were hundreds of miles away, approaching the northern coast of Scotland on their retreat to Spain. That night, she returned to St James' Palace and the next day she ordered an immediate demobilisation of her forces. This was partly because many of the men were needed to help with the harvest, but an equally pressing issue was the fact that her forces in

## THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

Cate Blanchett speaks to the troops at Tilbury in *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* (2007)

Essex and Kent were costing over £783 a day (some £98,000 in modern money). Indeed, from start to finish, the government's response to the crisis was cast with a somewhat penny-pinching attitude. Francis Drake worried that, by disbanding her forces too quickly, Elizabeth might be risking her kingdom "for the sake of a little change".

But, in reality, the government had little choice. It had begun the year virtually bankrupt and had been obliged to resort to a forced loan of £75,000 (the equivalent of more than £9.3 million) from its richer subjects to tide it over.

Ultimately, the highest price was paid by the men who had given Elizabeth her victory – the sailors of her fleet. More than half those who had fought the Armada died from disease or starvation. Of the £167,000 spent on the campaign, just £180 went to help the injured. Lord High Admiral Charles Howard was reduced to printing licences that allowed his maimed soldiers to beg.





### TRAIL BLAZING

This was one of the **earliest instances** of English fireships being **used in combat** – the tactic worked so well, it was used for centuries.



King: "I know by the small experience I have had afloat that I soon become sea-sick."

### FALSE START

The Armada sailed from Lisbon at the end of May but, on 19 June, it was forced to put into Corunna in north Spain after supplies were found to be rotting – the previous year, Francis Drake (see *Drake the Dragon*, page 34) had raided

**MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE**  
Spain's Philip II and England's Mary I were married in 1554



### PHILIP II (1527-98)

King of Spain, Portugal, Naples, Sicily, Lord of the Netherlands and ruler of Spanish territories in the New World, Philip was also King of England during his marriage to Mary Tudor. A devout Catholic, Philip led the Catholic coalition that defeated the Turks at Lepanto in 1571. From 1566, he was faced with rebellion among his Protestant subjects in the Netherlands and spent the last eight years of his life at war with the (initially Protestant) Henry IV of France.

## A CATHOLIC CRUSADER

### Philip II of Spain

It would be a mistake to think that Philip of Spain had long wanted an open war with Elizabeth of England. On the contrary, he'd spent years trying to avoid one. For much of the first half of the 16th century England and Spain had been allies against their common enemy, France. In 1554, Philip married Mary Tudor and the pair jointly ruled England as King and Queen. But the marriage was not a success. It produced no heirs and the English resented being a minor part of Philip's large empire. Matters were made worse when England was dragged into Philip's war with France and ended up losing Calais.

When Mary died in 1558, Philip ceased to be King of England, so he proposed marriage to his wife's successor, the Protestant Elizabeth. While this would have ensured that there was no prospect of her allying with France and would have enabled him to help England's Catholics, in truth, the prospect of marrying someone he regarded as an illegitimate heretic appalled him. He was probably relieved when she declined.

At this stage, although Philip would have liked to return England to the Catholic fold, he was reluctant to overthrow the English

Queen, mainly because of her obvious replacement, Mary Queen of Scots, who had close links with his enemy, France. On the other hand, if he failed to act, England's Catholics might look to France for support instead. So, for many years, Philip made all the right noises but did nothing concrete.

What led to Philip's change in policy? Publicly, Philip always asserted that his primary aim was to restore England to Catholicism, essential if he was going to get assistance from the Papacy, but there were other more pressing diplomatic and political causes. Philip was particularly concerned about the increase of English attacks on his treasure ships for the antics of men like Francis Drake were seriously damaging his reputation. The last straw came in the Spanish Netherlands, where Philip's subjects had been in rebellion for more than 15 years. In 1585, Elizabeth formally took them under her protection, accepting limited sovereign powers and sending English troops to occupy key fortifications. This, more than anything, pushed Philip into action. For, not only did Elizabeth's actions threaten to prolong the rebellion, they were, in Philip's eyes, an invasion of his territory and a direct challenge to his sovereignty.

### ELIZABETH I (1533-1603)

The daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth succeeded her half-sister Mary as Queen in November 1558. As a Protestant, Catholic Europe saw her as an illegitimate heretic. She re-established Protestantism as the state religion, privately encouraged English privateers (like Drake – see page 34) to attack the Spanish and gave financial and military assistance to the Dutch Protestant rebels in the Spanish Netherlands.





## CLASH OF NATIONS THE SPANISH ARMADA, 1588



**PROPAGANDA TOOL**  
Elizabeth made the most of her victory, ensuring that the Armada (top left) featured in this official portrait

## “Warning beacons were lit. Soon, the whole of England knew the Spanish were on their way”

✓ Cadiz, destroying so many barrel staves (the wood used to make barrels) that unseasoned ones had to be used instead – and Medina Sidonia advised Philip to delay sailing because of the shortages. Philip was having none of it. Brushing aside Medina Sidonia's objections, he wrote: “I have dedicated this enterprise to God... pull yourself together then and do your part.”

Meanwhile the English fleet, which was under the command of the Lord High Admiral Charles Howard, with Drake as his Vice Admiral, had been concentrating at Plymouth. It left the port for a pre-emptive attack on the Armada but, after two weeks at sea, adverse winds forced it to return home.

On 21 July, the Armada sailed from Corunna, battling north-eastwards through storms before, on 29 July, passing the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall. Warning beacons were lit on shore. Soon, the whole of England knew the Spanish were on their way. The Armada reached Plymouth the following day – it was then that one of the most famous episodes in the whole story

purportedly took place. Howard and Drake are said to have been enjoying a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe when a breathless Captain Fleming (commander of one of the small vessels sent out to provide early warning of a Spanish attack) arrived with the news that the Spanish were out to sea. According to folklore,

Drake calmly replied “We have time to finish the game and beat the Spaniards too”.

While we'll never know whether the game, and the quip, actually occurred, it was

by no means

impossible. The English were faced with a flood tide running into Plymouth Harbour and the wind was against them; there was no way the defenders could have left until the sea waters ebbed later that evening.

The next morning, the 100 or so ships of the English fleet assembled off Plymouth, ready for battle. It would be understandable to think that Howard would have positioned his fleet in front

# 34

The number of first-rank warships in England's Royal Fleet



**FIRST SIGHT**  
Firelight carried news of the Armada's arrival across England

## THE ARMADA IN ACTION

England's navy meets the ‘invincible’ Spanish fleet in the Channel

### 1 28 MAY Lisbon

The Spanish Armada sets sail from Lisbon under the command of the Duke of Medina Sidonia.

### 2 END OF MAY Plymouth

English troops and ships concentrate at Plymouth, under the command of Lord High Admiral Charles Howard.

### 3 19 JUNE Corunna

The Armada makes a month-long stop at Corunna to resupply. It sets sail again on 21 July and, on 29 July, the Armada is sighted from the Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall.

### 4 31 JULY Off the coast of Plymouth

The two fleets face each other in the water – the English take a westward position, upwind of the Spanish, while the Armada adopts a crescent formation. At around 9am, the English open fire. The fighting draws to a close by 1pm.

### 5 2-5 AUGUST Along the Channel

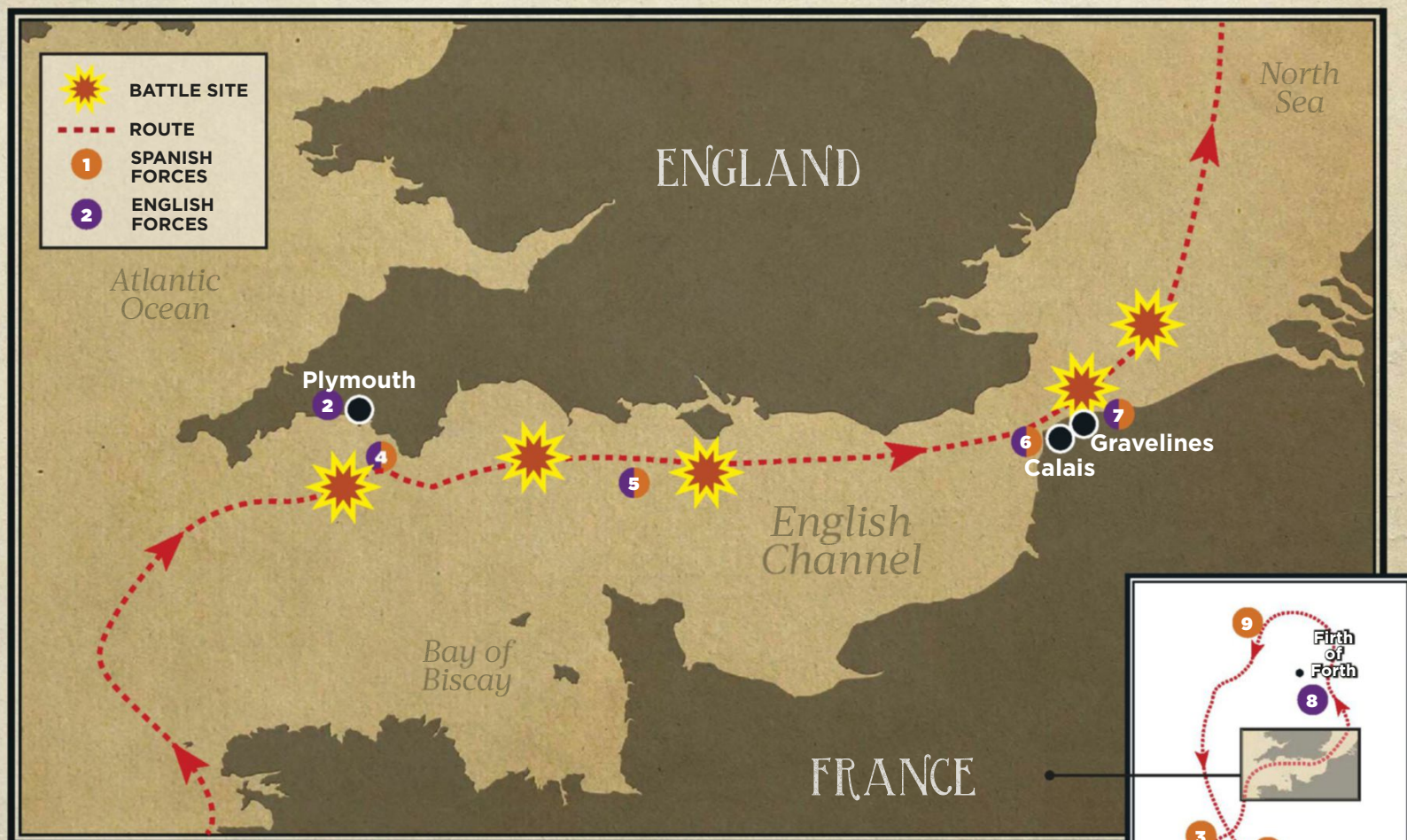
The Armada moves up the Channel towards Calais, harassed all the way by the English fleet.



**FULL TIME**  
According to legend, rakish Drake wasn't ready to give up on his game of bowls when the Spanish arrived

of the Armada, in order to block its progress up the Channel. In fact, he did just the opposite. The chief reason for this lies in the tactics employed by the two fleets. The Spaniards still used the old-fashioned techniques of grappling and boarding – they would try to manoeuvre alongside enemy ships so that their





#### 6 6 AUGUST Calais

The Armada reaches Calais, where the promised troops fail to show. On the night of 7-8 August, the English send in fireships, which scatter the Armada.

#### 7 8 AUGUST Gravelines

The English fleet attacks, taking out 11 ships. Medina Sidonia decides to return to Calais, but the elements are against him; instead his own fleet is nearly dashed against the Flemish coast, before the wind changes direction, allowing it to flee north. Now, the only route back to Spain was a 2,000-mile route around the north of Scotland.

#### 8 12 AUGUST Firth of Forth

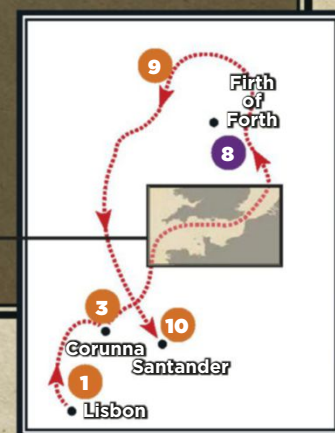
Having pursued the Armada north, the English – now short on food supplies – abandon the chase.

#### 9 21 AUGUST Off the coast of north-west Scotland

On the Atlantic side of Scotland, the Armada is beleaguered by tempests. At least 27 of the ships are wrecked.

#### 10 21 SEPTEMBER Santander

Medina Sidonia finally reaches northern Spain – he has lost as many as 20,000 men.



## A PLUNDER ON THE SIDE

### Raiding the *Rosario*

The Armada battle had barely started when one Spanish ship, the *Nuestra Señora del Rosario*, was involved in two collisions that immobilised her, forcing the Spaniards to leave her behind. That night, to ensure that the English didn't blunder into the Armada in the darkness, Francis Drake was given the task of leading the fleet with a lantern on the stern of his ship, the *Revenge*. At one stage, the light vanished only to reappear a little later. Admiral Howard gave chase to catch up with it but,

as dawn broke, he realised that Drake was nowhere to be seen. The light he was following came not from the *Revenge* but from the Armada. To avoid being overwhelmed, he beat a hasty retreat.

Where had Drake gone? It seems that his piratical instincts had got the better of him, and he'd sailed off to seize the discarded *Rosario*. Drake took 50,000 ducats from the ship, which was later stripped of its weapons and powder to spread around the English fleet.

#### A PRIZE HAUL

The *Rosario* is towed into Torbay in Devon by Drake's ship *Revenge*



Fellow English privateer and a fleet commander that day Martin Frobisher was furious, claiming Drake's greed had endangered the entire mission: "Like a coward he kept by her [the *Rosario*] all night because he would have the spoil... We will have our shares or I will make him spend the best blood in his belly."

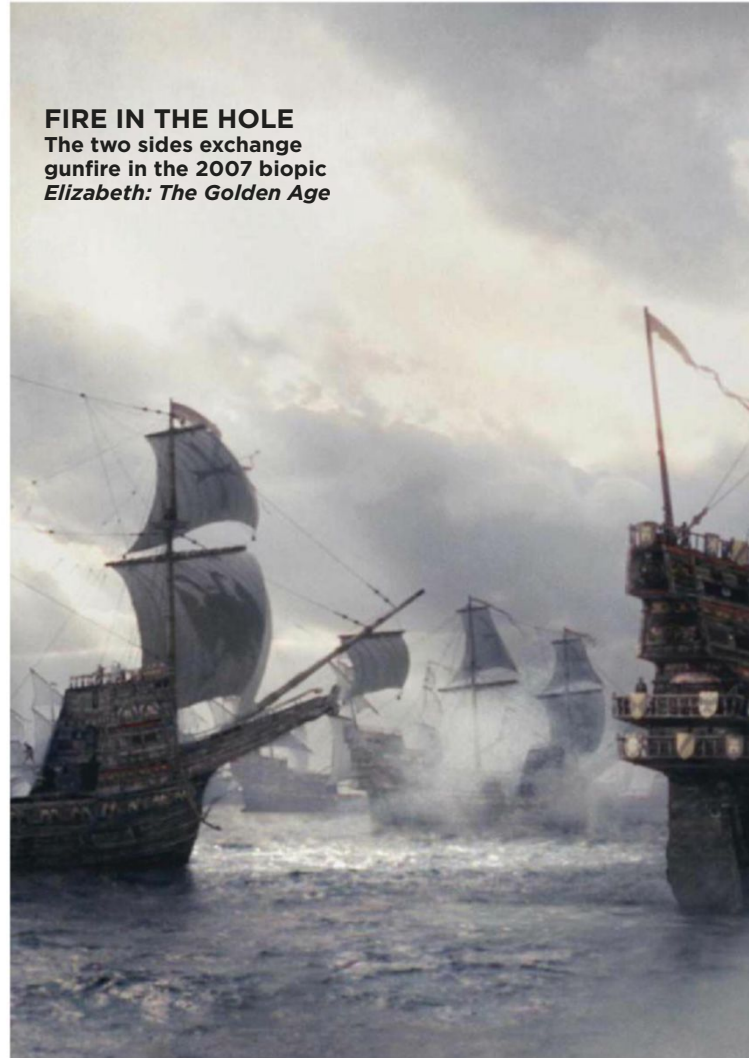




## CLASH OF NATIONS THE SPANISH ARMADA, 1588

### FIRE IN THE HOLE

The two sides exchange gunfire in the 2007 biopic *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*



## THE SCOURGE OF SPAIN

### Francis Drake the Dragon

Francis Drake rose from relatively humble beginnings in Devon to become probably the most famous of all English seafarers. Drake had spells as a military commander, an MP and a slaver (he took part in one of the first English slaving expeditions to Africa) but he's best-known for his extraordinary career as a privateer – a state-sponsored pirate.

He followed successful raids on the Spanish in the early 1570s with a voyage round the world at the end of the decade. During his circumnavigation, he carried out a series of highly profitable attacks on Spanish ships and ports – acts that were backed by numerous courtiers and covertly encouraged by the Queen. The voyage netted £160,000 for the treasury (of which he took a healthy percentage) and earned Drake a knighthood. After a privateering raid on the West Indies from 1585-86, he launched a daring attack, in 1587, on Cadiz. This happened to disrupt Armada preparations, and he even captured a Spanish treasure ship named the *San Felipe* on his way home. Such activities hardly endeared him to the Spanish who called him *El Draque* – 'The Dragon'.

During the Armada campaign he served as a Vice Admiral, with a squadron of 39 ships, although some of his actions suggested he was as concerned with lining his own pockets as he was with defending the realm. Although Drake then helped set up the 'Chatham Chest', a fund for injured sailors, his career went downhill after the Armada. He was joint leader of the disastrous Counter-Armada of 1589, and his final expedition to the Caribbean in 1595 was equally unsuccessful and saw his death, probably from dysentery.



### MAKING ENEMIES

Drake (right) launches a raid on Cadiz in 1587 – one of many ways the English privateer angered the Spanish

### DAY OF DESTRUCTION

With a fleet of **30 ships**, Drake's 1587 raid on Cadiz lasted just **36 hours**, in which time his men destroyed numerous ships as well as tons of supplies, all intended for Philip's Armada.

soldiers could swarm across and capture them in hand-to-hand combat. The English, however, preferred to use their cannons to bombard their enemies at long range. Had the English tried to block the Armada, the Spanish ships would have been able to close with them, instigating a melee in which the superior English firepower would have been negated and the Spanish advantage in numbers could have proved decisive. So, Howard manoeuvred his fleet westwards, positioning it upwind of the Armada.

### INTIMIDATING SIGHT

Contemporaries, English and Spanish alike, all agreed that the Armada, with its bright sails, fluttering coloured pennants and forest of masts, made a magnificent, intimidating sight. An Italian eye-witness later commented "You could hardly see the sea... The masts and rigging, the towering sterns and prows which in height and number were so great that they... caused horror mixed with wonder."

Medina Sidonia and his deputy, Admiral Recalde had deployed the impressive fleet in a lunula, or crescent moon, formation, placing the more vulnerable transport ships in the centre. If the English tried to attack these weaker targets, they risked being engulfed by the rest of the Armada. Their only option was to attack the horns of





## “The terror-stricken Armada was scattered off Gravelines”

the crescent, where the Spanish had positioned their strongest ships.

At about 9am, the English approached. The soldiers on board the Spanish ships stood to their arms and rolled out netting to repel boarders, but the English wouldn't be drawn. Instead, they stood off at a distance, bombarding the Armada with shot until they ran short of ammunition. By 1pm, the fighting had died out. The Armada had been well and truly peppered (the English are reported to have fired 2,000 shots to the Spaniards' 750). A number of the Spanish ships had suffered light damage and human casualties were high, mainly from the deadly shards of wood that flew through the air when a ship was struck by a cannonball.

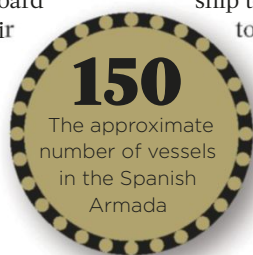
But the English had been unable to break up the Armada, and the only ships to be lost were the *Rosario*, which was damaged in a collision (see *Raiding the Rosario*, page 33), and the *San Salvador*, crippled by a vast explosion that claimed

the lives of over 200 of its men. The Spanish tried to tow the *San Salvador* away but, eventually, had to abandon the ship to the English, who quickly took its powder and shot for their own use.

The next few days saw continued fighting as the Armada slowly made its way up the Channel, harried all the way by Howard's ships. Despite an enormous expenditure of powder and shot, no significant damage was caused to either fleet. A major action was fought off the Isle of Wight, with Drake in command of the largest contingent of English ships. Once again, the Armada held together, but the battle prevented them from anchoring in the sheltered waters of the Solent while they waited to link up with the Duke of Parma and his men.

### BAD TO WORSE

On 6 August, the Armada arrived off Calais, where it dropped anchor and waited for news of Parma. The news,



**SPANISH DEFENCE**  
A contemporary depiction of the effective crescent formation utilised by the Armada

when it eventually came, wasn't good. Parma was still at Bruges and hadn't even begun embarking his troops. The following night, the English launched their dreaded fireships.

The morning of 8 August saw the terror-stricken Armada scattered off Gravelines (near Calais). As Medina Sidonia desperately tried to reassemble his disorganised fleet, the English moved in, battering the ships of the Armada with cannon fire while nimbly avoiding Spanish attempts to board them. It was said that, by the end of the fighting, some of the Spanish ships were so low on ammunition that they could only reply to the English cannons with their muskets. Casualty figures aren't known, but it's thought that, while the English





## CLASH OF NATIONS THE SPANISH ARMADA, 1588



**WATERY FURNACE**  
The Armada is defeated in this dramatic interpretation of the battle off Gravelines

## “When the Armada entered the storm-wracked north Atlantic, the real nightmare began”

escaped fairly lightly, the Spanish suffered heavy human losses and 11 of their ships were lost or badly damaged.

Despite the pounding, the Armada somehow managed to regain its defensive formation and Medina Sidonia was still prepared to fight on. But now he had an added danger to contend with – the wind and tide was driving his ships inexorably towards the sandbanks on the Flemish coast. It seemed only a matter of time before ship after ship would run aground. Then, at the very last minute, the air currents shifted and the Armada was able to move northwards – away from the shore.

Medina Sidonia held a council of war and it was agreed that what remained of the Armada would try to return to Calais if the wind allowed them to. It didn't. With the wind blowing relentlessly from the south west, they were left with only one alternative – to continue northwards around Scotland, returning to Spain on a 2,000-mile journey through unknown waters in damaged ships.

Leaving a squadron of ships under Sir Henry Seymour to guard the Channel against Parma, Howard gave chase with the rest of the English fleet.

On 12 August the English, weakened by sickness and by now desperately short of food and ammunition, abandoned the pursuit as the Armada reached the Firth of Forth.

### EYE OF THE STORM

When the depleted Armada rounded the northern coast of Scotland on 21 August, it entered the storm-wracked North Atlantic. It was now that the real nightmare began.

Over the next few weeks, at least 27 ships were wrecked on the north and west coasts of Scotland and Ireland. Thousands drowned. Those who did manage to make it ashore found no refuge. Sir William Fitzwilliam, the English Lord

Deputy of Ireland, had ordered that all Spanish survivors from the shipwrecks on the west coast of Ireland should be put to death.

On 21 September, a despondent Medina Sidonia reached Santander in northern Spain. Writing to Philip, he said “The misfortunes and miseries that have befallen us... are the worst that have been known on any voyage”. Of the



### VICTORY MEDAL

One of the many medals to commemorate the Armada's defeat – it reads ‘God blew with His wind and they were scattered’ in Latin

129 ships that had set sail for England, at least 50 had been wrecked or sunk. Over 12,000 men had been lost.

The English saw it all as a sign of divine support for the Protestant cause and triumphantly cast medals with the motto “God blew and they were scattered”. But Philip wasn't the kind of man to give up after the first setback. In his eyes, the Armada may have failed, but it had come within a whisker of success. On 12 November, as the English prepared for a service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, Philip informed his Council of State: “I, for my part, shall never fail to strive for the cause of God and the good of these kingdoms...” The war would go on. ☉

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

## WAR AND PEACE

The Spanish Armada was just one episode in an undeclared war that ran from 1585 until 1604. Throughout that period, England continued to support Dutch rebels against Spain, while the Spanish supported rebellions against English rule in Ireland. Both sides intervened in the French Wars of Religion (1562-98), with the English supporting the Huguenots (Protestants) and the Spanish, the Catholics.

The defeat of the Armada is not the key moment in the road to England's naval supremacy that it is cracked up to be. In 1589, the English launched an Armada of their own.

Led by Drake and Sir John Norris, its aims were to destroy ships in northern Spain, land at Lisbon in order to raise a Portuguese revolt and, finally, to seize the Azores. It achieved none of these tasks and limped home having lost 40 ships. In fact, the Spanish navy emerged stronger than ever. In 1595, the Spanish raided Cornwall and, in the two subsequent years, Philip launched two more armadas, although both were driven back by storms. Hostilities eventually ended with the 1604 Treaty of London, in which Spain recognised the English Protestant monarchy and England ended its support for the Dutch rebellion.

**60**  
The number of ships in the Armada that managed to return to Spain

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*The Spanish Armada* by Robert Hutchinson (Phoenix, 2014)

### WATCH

*Elizabeth: the Golden Age* (2007), starring Cate Blanchett

### VISIT

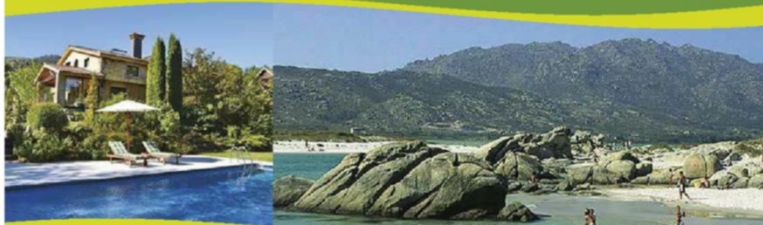
The Golden Hinde II, a full-size reconstruction at Pickfords Wharf, London [www.goldenhinde.com](http://www.goldenhinde.com)



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# Animals on trial

Acquitted donkeys, murderous pigs and a bear with a criminal taste for honey, these all found themselves on the wrong side of the law

Hog in the dock: a pig is tried and sentenced to death for murder



It was feared that an egg laid by a rooster would hatch into a demonic killer – a basilisk

**GUILTY**

## FALLING FOWL OF THE LAW

**CRIME:** Cockerel lays an egg  
**SENTENCE:** Burned to death

In 1474, the Swiss city of Basel bore witness to a satanic atrocity – a cockerel committing “the heinous and unnatural crime of laying an egg”. Deemed an act of heresy, the rooster was condemned to be burned alive at a judicial hearing. A sombre crowd gathered for the feathered heathen’s immolation, with it being treated as seriously as the execution of a human heretic.

**ACQUITTED**

## IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO

**CRIME:** A donkey is caught fornicating with a man  
**SENTENCE:** The man, Jacques Ferron, was burned alive

When Frenchman Jacques Ferron was caught copulating with a female donkey in Vanves, France, in 1750, the subsequent trial drew much attention. The parish priest was one of many character witnesses for the popular she-ass, calling her “a most honest creature”. The court judged that the donkey “had not participated in her master’s crime of her own free will”, but Ferron was not so lucky. He was burned to death.



**UNKNOWN**

## BUGGING OUT

**CRIME:** Weevils damage a vineyard  
**SENTENCE:** Unknown



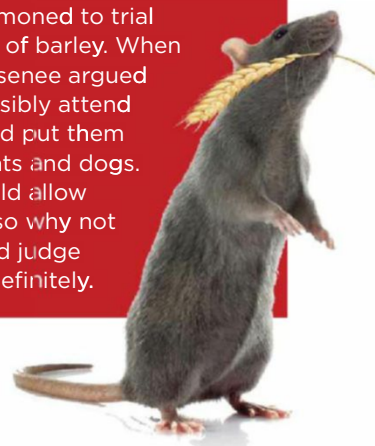
Damaging any church property was a very serious crime in the Early Modern era, which put animals at the risk of the wrath of the authorities. When weevils ruined a crop of holy grapes in St Julien, France, in 1587, action was swift and thorough – the trial lasted eight months. The outcome is lost to history, but surviving records state that, while the lawyers argued, the impatient locals created a reserve for the critters away from the vineyard.

**TRIAL  
ADJOURNED**

## THE RAT TRAP

**CRIME:** Rats destroy a barley crop  
**SENTENCE:** Rats went free

In 16th century France, lawyer Bartholomew Chassenee developed a reputation as a deft defender of animal rights, after representing a colony of rats in 1510. The rodents had been summoned to trial after destroying a field of barley. When they didn’t show, Chassenee argued his clients couldn’t possibly attend court, as to do so would put them in danger from local cats and dogs. Such risk of death would allow humans to skip court, so why not animals? The befuddled judge postponed the trial indefinitely.





## WHAT A SWINE

**CRIME:** Pig kills a child **SENTENCE:** Hanged

Of all the animals brought before the court throughout the ages, none appears so often as the pig. In one such example, from 1494, a hog was arrested near Clermont in France for having "strangled and defaced a child in its cradle". Multiple witnesses claimed the porker let itself into the house and "disfigured and ate the face and neck of the said child". The judge found the swine guilty and sentenced it to be hanged.



**GUILTY**

**GUILTY**

## DON'T HAVE A COW

**CRIME:** A cow pushes a woman over  
**SENTENCE:** Death

When, in 1621, a woman from Saxony, Germany, died from injuries caused by a cow pushing her over, the bovine was pulled before the Law Faculty of the University of Leipzig. It didn't take long for her sentence of death. The executioners were instructed to kill and bury the animal "unflayed" – the condemned cow's flesh was not to be eaten, nor leather to be made from her hide.



**UNKNOWN**

## MAKING A MOUNTAIN

**CRIME:** Moles cause crop damage  
**SENTENCE:** Perpetual banishment

For the crime of causing crop damage in Stelvio (modern-day Italy), a company of moles was banished in 1519. After objection from the defendants' lawyer, the paternal judge mitigated his sentence, adding a clause that those subterranean mammals "with young and to such as are yet in their infancy" should be given 14 days' respite before being told to get out of town.

**GUILTY**

## STRING 'ER UP

**CRIME:** An elephant kills her handler  
**SENTENCE:** Death by hanging

A 1916 parade in Kingsport, Tennessee, turned ugly when a circus elephant named Mary killed her handler. Having been on the job a day, he accidentally hurt Mary with a spear, and she reacted by knocking him down and stamping on his head. The crowd erupted and soon a bloodthirsty lynch mob formed, chanting "Kill the elephant". They tried to shoot her, but the bullets fell from her thick hide, so they strung her up from a 100-ton railcar-mounted crane.



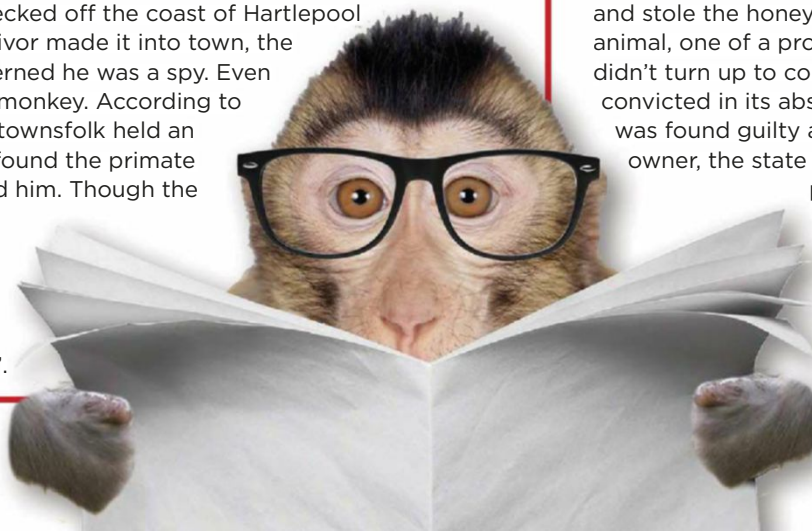
The chain broke on the first hanging attempt, causing Mary severe pain

## MONKEY BUSINESS

**CRIME:** Primate acts as a French spy, supposedly  
**SENTENCE:** Hanged

During the Napoleonic Wars (1792-1815), anything French was treated with suspicion in Britain. So after a French ship wrecked off the coast of Hartlepool and the sole survivor made it into town, the locals were concerned he was a spy. Even though he was a monkey. According to local legend, the townsfolk held an impromptu trial, found the primate guilty and hanged him. Though the story may be apocryphal, Hartlepudlians are still known today as the 'Monkey Hangers'.

**GUILTY**



## TASTE FOR HONEY

**CRIME:** Bear steals honey  
**SENTENCE:** The state had to pay a £1,750 fine

Just eight years ago, in 2008, a court in Macedonia heard how a bear attacked a beekeeper's hives and stole the honey inside. The wild animal, one of a protected species, didn't turn up to court so had to be convicted in its absence. The bear was found guilty and as it had no owner, the state was instructed to pay the exasperated beekeeper in damages.

**GUILTY**



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Animal trials have been far from unusual in history – what are others that could have made the list?

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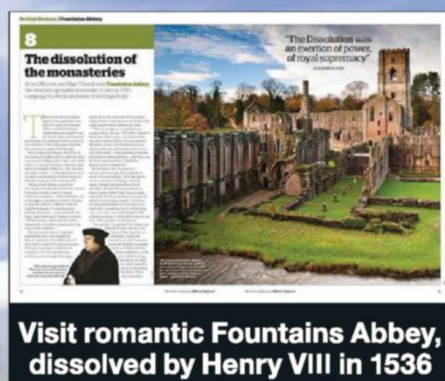


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## HEAD SHOT

This Iron Age bronze head was one of three discovered in a grave in Welwyn, Hertfordshire

THE BIG STORY  
THE CELTS



# THE CELTS IN BRITAIN

## WHAT'S THE STORY?

**P**ortrayed by the Romans as savage and uncivilised – and with a supposed penchant for human sacrifice – the Celts had been resident in the British Isles for many centuries prior to the invasion of Emperor Claudius's forces in AD 43. They were a loose

conglomeration of tribes that ruled particular regions and shared ideals and ways of living.

**Miles Russell** reveals the true story of the Celts in Britain – who they were, how they lived, who they fought and whether they really did indulge in human sacrifice...

## NOW READ ON...

### NEED TO KNOW

- 1 Who Were The Celts? [p42](#)
- 2 How Did They Live? [p44](#)
- 3 Celtic Art [p46](#)
- 4 Human Sacrifice [p48](#)
- 5 What Became Of The Celts? [p50](#)

### TIMELINE

The Evolution of Celtic Britain [p52](#)





1

# WHO WERE THE CELTS?

*These pan-European tribes were seen by the classical world as the 'enemy at the gates'*

**T**he Greeks called them 'Keltoi' or 'Galatians', while the Romans knew them as 'Celtae' or 'Gauls'. They were frequently depicted as savage, warlike and dangerous; a very real threat to the survival of Mediterranean culture. Archaeology, however, has shown them to be one of the most important and influential of all ancient civilisations, with their artistic and cultural influence, which spread from Spain to Turkey and Italy to Scotland, still affecting us today.

The 'Celts' were not, in fact, a single race, but a series of distinct tribes, albeit bound by common ties of art, custom and religion. Celtic groups existed throughout central Europe, on the fringes of the classical world, from the 4th century BC. For Greece and Rome, they represented the archetypal 'enemy at the gates'; the ultimate barbarian whose way of life was incomprehensible and completely at odds with their own.

Given that both the Romans and the Greeks used the word 'Celt' in an inconsistent – and frequently quite derogatory – way to cover those who lived beyond 'civilisation', it can

be difficult to see how the term was originally applied and what precisely it meant. Matters are not helped by the way in which the word 'Celtic' has taken on a more political dimension in recent years, being linked with concepts of Welsh, Scottish, Cornish and Irish independence and self-determination. This, of course, causes further confusion, given that both Britain and Ireland were not considered, by contemporary Roman historians and geographers, to be part of the Celtic world.

41

The number of recorded Celtic tribes in Britain resident in Britain during the Iron Age

If, however, we use the words 'Celt' and 'Celtic' to cover the distinctive cultural, religious, linguistic and artistic styles common across large swathes of pre-Roman Europe, then it is apparent that not only was Britain part of this greater Celtic inheritance, but also that the Celtic style that developed here represented the final flourish of a rich, varied and dynamic culture. Unfortunately the Celts themselves did not write anything down, so their history and identity can only be pieced together from archaeological excavation, combined with the written testimony of their sworn enemy: the Roman Empire.

## ISLAND NATION

## THE CELTS IN BRITAIN

Significant archaeological finds from the Iron Age have been made right across the British Isles. Whether it's the remains of hillforts and roundhouses dotted around the landscape or the excavation of buried weapons, coinage and jewellery, these discoveries allow us to speculate about the lives and times of the Celts.

**WHAT LIES BENEATH**  
More than 150 metal objects were found at Llyn Cerrig Bach



## CASTELL HENLLYS, PEMBROKESHIRE

The interior of this Iron Age hillfort has been archaeologically examined, the results forming the basis of a series of full-scale modern reconstructions, with four roundhouses and a granary being built directly over the excavated remains. These buildings provide an excellent idea of what a Celtic settlement looked like.



## NAME GAME

The remains of the Celtic roundhouses on Holyhead Mountain are also known as Cytiau'r Gwyddelod – aka **The Irishmen's Huts**.

**CIRCLE OF LIFE** This Iron Age dry-stone roundhouse is one of around 20 such examples on the lower slopes of Holyhead Mountain on Anglesey





### DIG FOR GLORY

The **Llyn Cerrig Bach** hoard was stumbled upon by workmen constructing an **RAF airfield** on Anglesey during World War II. The objects were buried in peat.

### LLYN CERRIG BACH I, ANGLESEY

Recovered from an Anglesey bog in 1942, the Llyn Cerrig Bach hoard is one of the largest collections of Celtic metalwork in Britain. Containing swords, spears, cauldrons, equestrian gear and a bronze trumpet, it is thought that it comprised a series of deposits, set at times as offerings to the gods.



### HILL RAISER

Traprain Law is a dominant feature on the East Lothian landscape



### TRAPRAIN LAW, EAST LoTHIAN

One of the most dramatically sited hillforts in Britain, Traprain Law belonged to the Votadini, a tribe that existed outside of the Roman Empire. With the collapse of Rome in the 5th century AD, the fort became a key location in the Kingdom of the Gododdin, whose exploits were the subject of a sixth-century poem.

### WETWANG, EAST YORKSHIRE

The Iron Age burials found at Wetwang comprise individuals buried with a variety of high-status weapons, such as decorated swords, spears and shields. The dismantled remains of chariots have also been found, the prestige battle transport of the Celtic elite.



### SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

One of the largest collections of torcs, the neck rings of Celtic aristocracy, has been excavated at Snettisham. More than 70 complete examples – and multiple fragments of others – have been recovered from a site that may have been the royal treasury of the local Iceni tribe.



### DANEbury, HAMPSHIRE

Excavations at Danebury hillfort have revealed a well-ordered interior, with roundhouses and granaries, along with areas of industrial production and religious activity, all set along a series of streets. It is likely that most developed hillforts in Iron Age Britain were organised in a similar way.



### COLCHESTER, ESSEX

The name 'Camulodunum' (Colchester) appeared on the coins of Celtic rulers such as Cunobelinus, whom the Romans called 'Great King of the Britons'. The capital of the Trinovantes tribe, Camulodunum was the main target of the invading Roman army in AD 43, later becoming the first town in the new province.







# HOW DID THEY LIVE?

*The food, the homes, the workplace...*

**M**ost Celts in Britain lived in roundhouses, either clustered together in small farms or enclosed settlements, or within large hillforts. With their conical, thatched roofs and wattle-and-daub walls, roundhouses offered substantial family accommodation, and are usually found together with

timber granaries, animal pens and work sheds, all surrounded by ploughed fields and pasture. Farming was the main source of food production. Celtic families or clans belonged to larger tribes, each led by an elite to whom the farmers and food producers pledged their allegiance.

## GIMME SHELTER

The main feature of roundhouses was their distinctive **conical thatched roofs** set at an angle of around 45 degrees.

**“CELTIC  
FAMILIES  
OR CLANS  
BELONGED TO  
LARGER TRIBES”**

## PERMANENT HOME

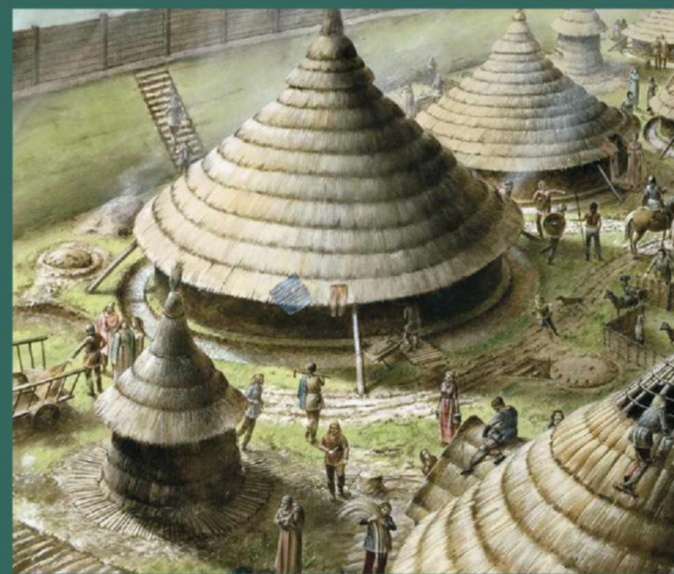
A well-constructed, well-maintained roundhouse would have **provided a home** for an extended family for many years.

## THE GREAT DEFENDER HILLFORTS

With their substantial banks and ditches that enclosed vast areas of land, hillforts are the most awe-inspiring Celtic features of Britain, with hundreds being constructed between 600 and 100 BC. They were political, economic and religious centres which probably also served as refuges at times of war. With capacity often exceeding population requirements, large parts of hillforts were given over to storing food. Significant evidence for religious activity can also be found, usually in the form of human burial, animal sacrifice and the widespread deposition of precious metalwork, such as spears, swords and mirrors.

We know very little about the ways in which tribes were organised, but some of the larger ones were governed from the hillforts by powerful ruling monarchies. Wealth came from trade or war, with the elite, protected by a warrior class, presumably controlling all key resources and redistribution networks. Other privileged classes would have included artisans (those who made exquisite artefacts), priests/priestesses and bards. Below these were the farming families and their workers, all of whom would have come to the hillforts to pay tribute to the leaders and fulfill their spiritual and economic obligations. The complex nature of hillfort defences, especially at the entrances, ensured that only those invited to participate could enter in safety, while those who were excluded could not easily force their way in.

**NO ENTRY** Hillforts often boasted elaborately defences, such as this fine example in Oswestry



## SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Celtic life was marked by a strong appreciation of gender equality – even if the Romans interpreted this as proof of their barbarity





### FANNING THE FLAMES

The centrepiece of a roundhouse was its fire, the smoke from which **gradually escaped** through the thickly thatched roof.

### FUEL ECONOMY

A substantial supply of **logs and firewood**, kept dry by the roof's overhang, was essential for the survival of Britain's harsh winters.

## THE FAT OF THE LAND FARMING

The Celtic way of life was essentially rural and centred upon the farm. Herds were tended and protected, families raised, houses built and pasture maintained, while fields were routinely ploughed and crops harvested. Hunting was a sport for the wealthy, the bulk of the population relying on the fruits of their own agricultural labour. Animals, especially cows, pigs and sheep, were kept within the area of the farm and there were usually large granaries and pits to store grain and other food close at hand, with any surplus being paid to the ruling elite.

Farming communities engaged in trade for exotic items. The Romans tell us that the Celts loved wine and decorative furnishings, but were mainly self-sufficient, producing pottery and metal objects to suit their own need. Feasts were important social occasions – the provision of excess food and drink together with entertainment in the form of story-telling and singing – and essential in order to maintain alliances and fulfil religious and social obligations between clans and family groups. Generally, life was peaceful, although the complex nature of tribal allegiances may sometimes have led to disputes and feuds. These could range from simple acts of raiding, instigated by a handful of warriors seeking prestige, to longer periods of sustained war in which much blood was spilt.

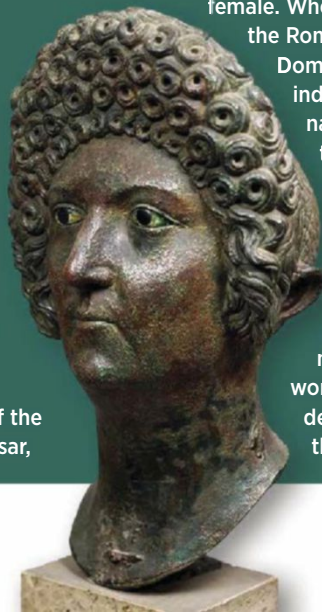
## CELTIC CUISINE FOOD

British Celts relied on a number of key cereal crops, notably wheat and barley to make both bread and beer, as well as peas, lentils and locally sourced fruit and berries. The high number of granaries and storage pits found in Celtic settlements suggests that most farming communities produced a substantial grain surplus. Farm livestock, namely pigs, sheep and cattle, were exploited for their meat and, in the case of sheep and cattle, also for milk and cheese. Horse, although an elite, much-treasured animal in Celtic society, also appears to have been eaten on occasion, as were new and exotic foreign imports such as the chicken. Generally speaking, thanks to their outdoor agricultural life, people were relatively healthy. An overreliance upon meat, however, probably did little to help obesity and coronary heart disease. According to the Romans, the Celts also loved beer and wine, which they drank to excess, many feasts degenerating into drunken brawls.

## EQUAL TERMS EGALITARIAN SOCIETY

Whereas Rome was a strongly patriarchal society, in which women were expected to occupy a secondary role, the Celts were more egalitarian, with both men and women able to rule tribes in their own right. At all levels of Celtic society, women appear to have had greater freedom than in Rome, possessing more of a partnership with men when it came to marriage, business, land ownership and the home. Ironically, the Romans viewed equality between the sexes as evidence of the 'barbarian' and deeply primitive nature of the Celts. According to Julius Caesar,

husbands and wives shared their wealth; there are certainly just as many rich male burials from the British Iron Age as female. When, in the 3rd century, the Roman empress Julia Domna commented on the independent, free-spirited nature of Celtic women to the (sadly unnamed) wife of Caledonian king Argentocoxus, the British queen replied contemptuously that "we may consort openly with the finest men, but you Roman women let yourselves be debauched in private by the vilest".







3

## CELTIC ART

*One of the truly lasting legacies of the Celts is their ever-popular artistic designs*

**T**he brilliance of Celtic society can best be appreciated in its distinctive art, the swirling, abstract forms being at odds with the realistic art of Greece and Rome. In Celtic art, stylised animal, human and bird-like figures weave around one another, so that it is frequently difficult to see where one body ends and another begins. Faces emerge from the confusion, only to disappear again, while complex patterns repeat and fade. Found mostly upon metal objects, such as swords, shields and

mirrors, such images may have been intended to enhance the power of the both the object and its owner.

Whether these striking images were replicated upon Celtic textiles, body tattoos or wooden objects, we don't know; unfortunately, such items do not usually survive. It's possible that many of the magnificent designs recorded, especially those that feature human or animal figures, originally related to important Celtic myths. If so, these are now sadly lost to us.

### ► THE AYLESFORD BUCKET

Part of a wooden bucket held together with decorated bronze strips, this stylised human head, with its ornate headdress, narrow cheeks, pursing lips and bulging eyes, is typical of the unrealistic style of Celtic facial representation. Like the modern-day punch bowl, the bucket was probably designed for serving alcoholic beverages at important feasts and communal gatherings.

**THE SWIRLING FORMS WERE AT ODDS WITH THE REALISTIC ART OF GREECE AND ROME"**



### ▲ THE SNETTISHAM TORC

Weighing just over a kilogram, the Snettisham torc is a neck ring made from 64 strands of gold mixed with silver. Twisted together to form a 'rope', both ends were welded into decorated terminals. Torcs were high-status items of jewellery, worn across Europe by both men and women. Sometimes they were the only thing that a Celtic warrior wore into battle.

### ► THE DESBOROUGH MIRROR

Celtic mirrors were fashioned from bronze, one side of which was highly polished so that the owner could see their own reflection. The back of each mirror was engraved with a unique and intricate pattern of interlocking positive (light) and negative (dark) leaf-like motifs, set out with the aid of compasses. The meaning of the designs remains unclear, although they may have represented the eternal struggle between day and night, life and death. Mirrors, such as this fine example from Desborough in Northamptonshire, are usually found in graves, together with hair tweezers, ear scoops and other items of facial modification. Despite what the Romans said, some Celts were concerned about their appearance.



### ON REFLECTION

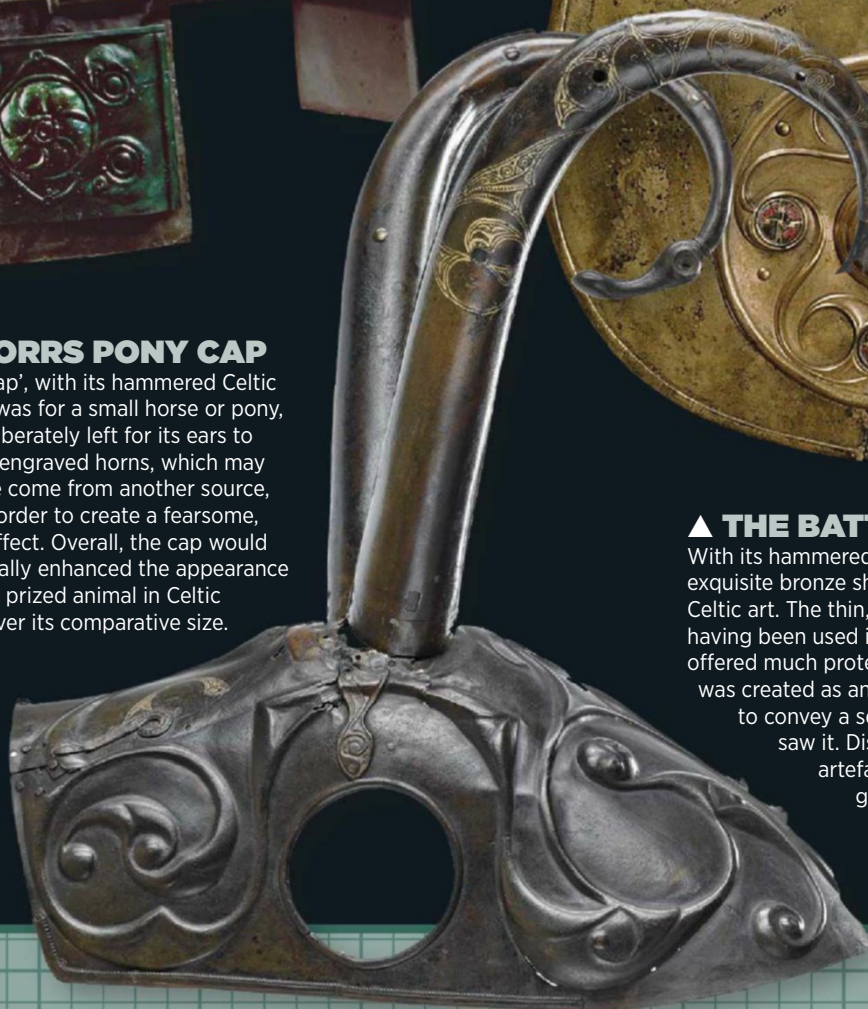
The Desborough mirror was discovered in 1908 by workmen **digging for ironstone**. It is now on permanent display at the **British Museum**.





### ▼ THE TORRS PONY CAP

This bronze 'cap', with its hammered Celtic spiral design, was for a small horse or pony, with holes deliberately left for its ears to protrude. The engraved horns, which may originally have come from another source, were fitted in order to create a fearsome, intimidating effect. Overall, the cap would have dramatically enhanced the appearance of the horse, a prized animal in Celtic society whatever its comparative size.



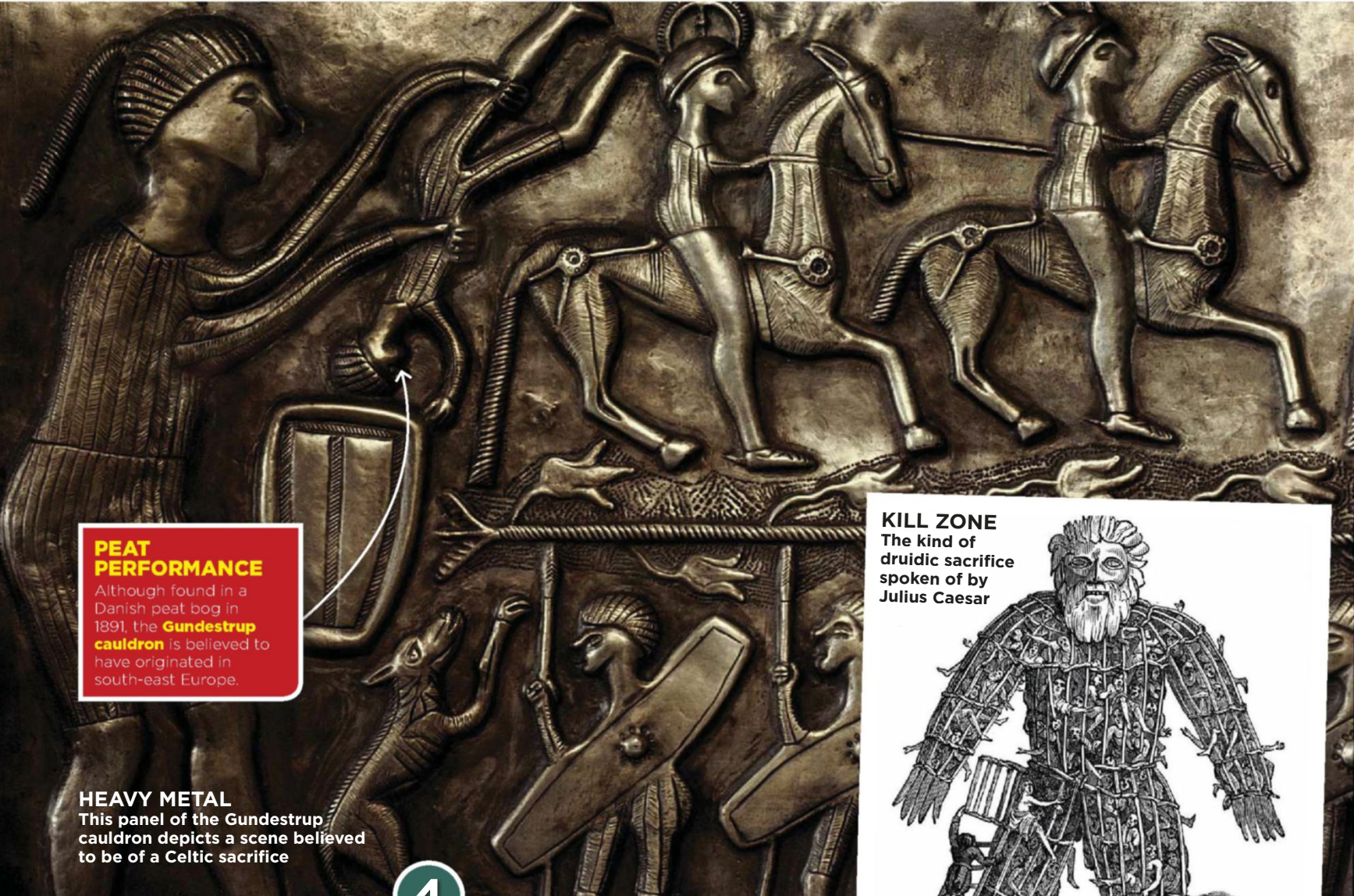
### ▲ THE BATTERSEA SHIELD

With its hammered spiral decoration and red glass inlay, this exquisite bronze shield is one of the masterpieces of European Celtic art. The thin, highly ornamented shield shows no sign of having been used in battle, however – and would hardly have offered much protection even if it had. It's more likely that it was created as an expensive and high-status object, designed to convey a sense of power and impress all those who saw it. Discovered in the River Thames, this particular artefact may have been created specially as a gift to the gods.

### ALL THAT GLITTERS...

The Battersea shield isn't actually the complete shield. It's just the **metal casing** that would have been attached to the front of a **wooden shield**.





### PEAT PERFORMANCE

Although found in a Danish peat bog in 1891, the **Gundestrup cauldron** is believed to have originated in south-east Europe.

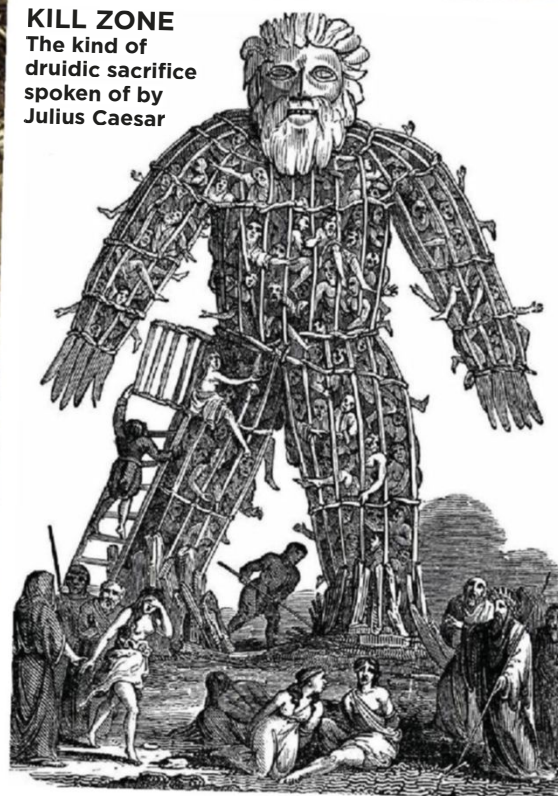
### HEAVY METAL

This panel of the Gundestrup cauldron depicts a scene believed to be of a Celtic sacrifice

4

### KILL ZONE

The kind of druidic sacrifice spoken of by Julius Caesar



## HUMAN SACRIFICE

*The discovery of well-preserved bodies suggests this was common practice*

**T**he sacrifice, or deliberate discard, of precious metal objects, such as spears, swords, helmets and shields, was a common practice within Celtic society. Large numbers of prized artefacts have subsequently been found within the bogs, springs, lakes and rivers of Britain and Western Europe. Animals too seem to have been sacrificed, rather more violently, individual body parts often being reassembled in a curious order within the pits and ditches of Iron Age settlements.

Mediterranean writers were keen to emphasise that the Celts practiced human sacrifice, something Romans found particularly abhorrent, and suggested that Celtic priests

consulted human entrails for messages from the gods. Were it not for the archaeological evidence recovered from the bogs of north-western Europe, we could explain all this as negative propaganda, examples of the Romans demonising their enemy. However, a variety of prehistoric bodies that have been dredged from the wetlands of Ireland, Denmark and southern Scandinavia have shown that human sacrifice was indeed carried out at times; the broad similarity of injuries recorded suggest that these executions were all part of the same ritual practice.

Comparison of these so-called 'bog bodies' has indicated a form of execution which is sometimes referred to as the threefold-death. A good example from Britain is that of a young man found preserved in Lindow

Moss in Cheshire. Here, the individual had, at some point in the first century AD, been struck violently across the head, before being strangled with a tightly wound cord and having his throat cut. Finally, his lifeless body was deposited face down in the bog.

Celts were also well-known head-hunters, taking the skulls of both honoured ancestors and enemies killed in battle to display them in their homes and to decorate their horses. At both Danebury in England and Ribemont in France, evidence of the decapitation of young men, probably warriors, is clear to see. However, we cannot be sure whether these poor individuals died in combat or were the victims of sacrifice. No less a Roman than Julius Caesar himself described the mass burning to death of criminals within a giant wicker man, although it should be stressed that no archaeological evidence has yet been found for such a practice.

1984

The year Lindow Man was discovered in a Cheshire bog. He was nicknamed 'Pete Marsh'





## THE BODIES IN THE BOGS WHO ARE THE DEAD?

Caesar described the sacrifice of criminals and prisoners of war in Celtic society, but the bodies of those killed and deposited into bogs, where the conditions have preserved their remains, suggests that those most frequently sacrificed were of high social standing. The fingers of these poor unfortunates do not have callouses, while their hair and fingernails are often well-trimmed and their skin looked after. Preservation is, in certain individuals, so good that we can tell what their last meal was. In the case of Lindow Man, his stomach contained traces of mistletoe.

The violence shown in the bog bodies of Europe is often described as 'overkill', in that these were more than simple executions. Victims were often stabbed, garroted, strangled or beheaded, then thrown in the bog – sometimes after being cut in half. Perhaps we are studying the mortal remains of kings or leaders whose time was simply up. Perhaps these are the remains of priests whose luck ran out following a natural or agricultural disaster. Sacrificed in order to placate the gods, their bodies were placed away from the settlements, in the watery places that formed the boundaries to tribal lands.

**PRESERVED BODY**  
The remains of Old Croghan Man,  
found in an Irish bog in 2003



## DIVINE INTERVENTION CELTIC RELIGION

We know next to nothing about the gods and goddesses of the Celts. Unlike the Greeks and Romans, the Celts had no single pantheon or divine 'family' of deities. Gods were apparently specific to particular tribes, or were connected to important features in the landscape, such as a river, spring, forest or mountain. The association of gods with watery places may explain why so many examples of high-status Celtic metalwork have been found in the rivers, streams, lakes and bogs of Britain. Communication with the gods, and control over the sacrifices made to them, was in the hands of a class of priests and priestesses that the Romans called druids. Sadly nothing is really known about the nature of the druids and what their precise role was in Celtic society.

**SHARED DEVOTION**  
Sulis-Minerva was both Celtic  
deity and Roman goddess

Some British gods were combined with their classical equivalent when Celtic lands were conquered by the pragmatic and deeply superstitious Roman Empire. The Romans were only too keen to combine their gods and goddesses with native ones in order to keep the natives happy. Hence we hear of the goddess Sulis, Celtic deity of the hot springs at Bath, who was merged with Minerva, the Roman goddess of healing, in order to create the super-deity 'Sulis-Minerva'. Elsewhere we find examples of the merging together of Celtic and Roman war gods like 'Mars-Toutatis' or 'Mars-Camulos'.



**GODLY GIFT** A Celtic shield  
is offered up to the deities in  
exchange for good fortune



**UNLIKE THE GREEKS  
AND THE ROMANS,  
THE CELTS HAD  
NO DIVINE 'FAMILY'  
OF DEITIES**





## THE RURAL POPULATION WERE LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY THE ARRIVAL OF ROME

**GOING STRAIGHT**  
When it came to architecture, the curves of the Celts' roundhouses were replaced by the formal, straight lines of Roman villas, such as this example at Great Witcombe in Gloucestershire



5

## WHAT BECAME OF THE CELTS?

*The Celtic way of life didn't disappear with the dawn of Roman Britain*

### ENDURING EMBLEM

The distinctive Celtic cross, with a circle around the intersection, remains a clear symbol of the Celtic world

**C**eltic Britain was a patchwork of tribes, each with their own traditions, culture and individual identities. Our understanding of these tribes is incomplete, although their names – such as the Atrebates, Durotriges, Catuvellauni and Iceni – were recorded by the Romans.

Britain was invaded by the Roman Empire in AD 43, the southern half of the island being controlled by Rome until the 5th century. Under Roman jurisdiction, new Mediterranean-style towns flourished; some of the Celtic elite bought in to the Roman way of life, with many developing their farms into more luxurious accommodation. The native British power structure of kings, queens and landowners was largely retained by the new

government as a useful way of devolving power to existing leaders, encouraging them to join the Roman-citizenship 'club'.

The bulk of the rural population, however, were largely unaffected by the arrival of Rome, their way of life continuing in broadly the same way, the only minor changes being the gradual introduction of new artefacts and fashions. In northern England and north Wales, where Roman garrisons were maintained,

Roman influence did not extend far from the 'bubble' of Mediterranean culture contained within individual military bases. The influence of Celtic Britain, especially in art, can be seen right through the Roman occupation, while the absence of Rome in northern Britain and Ireland meant that Celtic tradition continued unaffected.

36

The estimated age of Boudicca when she died, having allegedly drunk a concoction laced with hemlock



# THE FUTURE OF BRITAIN AFTER THE ROMANS



**TOTEM FIGURE** Even if he didn't actually exist, King Arthur was the embodiment of Celtic ideals

Celtic Britain was a valuable asset to Rome, producing significant amounts of grain and beef to feed the military. Its mineral reserves, especially iron, lead, tin, gold and copper, were also successfully exploited. From a social perspective, however, the occupation was a failure, as only a minority of the population adopted a Roman lifestyle. Perhaps it's unsurprising that little of the Roman way of life survived to influence the later development of England, Scotland and Wales. By the 5th century AD, eastern Britain was being affected by Germanic (English) forms of art, language and culture brought over by a new wave of migrants, whilst the west was reverting to more 'Celtic' influences.

Numerous British kingdoms evolved in the years following the collapse of Roman rule. Some may have been loosely based upon old Celtic tribal identities, others were wholly new, created by powerful warlords. The history of these kingdoms is lost to us, but the chaos that forged them provided us with the heroic King Arthur, whose semi-mythical exploits still resonate today. Real or not, Arthur represents the Celtic ideal: a powerful warrior who fought bravely and died in the heat of battle.

## CONTRADICTORY QUEENS BOUDICCA AND CARTIMANDUA

Two of the most powerful Celtic leaders in Britain were both women, but their lives and relationship with Rome were very different. Boudicca was a queen of the Iceni in what is now East Anglia. She and her husband, King Prasutagus, were allies of Rome following the invasion, signing a treaty with the emperor Claudius which supposedly guaranteed the safety of their tribe. With the death of Prasutagus sometime before AD 60, Rome took control of Iceni land and property, treating the queen and her people as slaves. Incensed by this brutal behaviour, Boudicca led a rebellion – which defeated a Roman legion and destroyed three Roman towns and their associated villas – before finally being crushed in battle, whereupon she reportedly took her own life.

Cartimandua was queen of the Brigantes, one of the largest tribes in Britain occupying what is now northern England. She too signed a treaty with Rome and, when Caratacus, leader of the British resistance war came to her for help, she betrayed him to Rome. As a consequence, she found herself at odds with a large anti-Roman faction, led by her husband Venutius. Brought down in a palace coup, Cartimandua fled to the protection of her Mediterranean allies.



**TAKING SIDES**  
Cartimandua chose to collaborate with Rome

It is only really within the last few centuries that the term 'Celtic' has taken on a more political dimension, being linked with concepts of Welsh, Scottish, Irish, Cornish, Gallician or Breton independence in the face of perceived English, Spanish or French political domination. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, Celtic art, culture, language and tradition have been resuscitated and used, not only as symbols of resistance, but also of identity and common ancestry, especially among those descended from emigrant groups in the USA, Canada, South America and Australia. Although this new form of Celtic identity is far removed from its prehistoric origins, it is surely testament to the powerful nature of this most distinctive and magnificent of ancient civilisations.



**FLAG DAY**  
Celtic nations and regions continue to ally with each other

## A MATTER OF IDENTITY TODAY'S CELTS

It is difficult to answer the question 'What happened to the Celts?' because they never really went anywhere. The people – and their art, culture and DNA – were absorbed into other empires, kingdoms and societies. Some areas of Britain, such as what is now Wales, Scotland and Cornwall, remained largely free of Roman influence, while Ireland was never part of the Roman Empire. All later helped to reintroduce Celtic art and tradition back into what was once the province of Britannia. Elsewhere, Celtic culture fused with English, Danish and Norman influences to create a distinctive style all of its own.



**BOLD BOUDICCA**  
The queen who never surrendered





# TIMELINE The evolution

From the early years of the Iron Age to the final conflict with the Romans,

**800-700 BC**

The beginning of the Iron Age in Britain. The first hill forts are constructed over a wide area of the British Isles, possibly as political and religious centres where resources were controlled and protected.

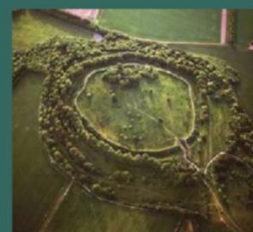
**PARALLEL LINES**

Battlesbury Camp, an Iron Age fort in Wiltshire



**700-500 BC**

Ironworking technology becomes more widespread and smaller farming communities and associated fields appear. Different forms of cereal cultivation are developed, as are improved breeds of cattle and sheep.



**500-100 BC**

More complex forms of hillforts dominate the landscape, while the rising Celt populations appear to coincide with the advent of organised tribal groups.

**100 BC**

Hillforts are in decline as larger political groups develop. The first coin-producing monarchies in southern Britain suggest that Celtic influences in art and culture are becoming more widespread.

**CASHING IN**

Celtic coins from south-west Britain



**AD 69-71**

The pro-Roman queen Cartimandua of the Brigantes is ousted in a palace coup led by her husband Venutius and forced to flee. Rome intervenes and the Brigantes are eventually conquered.

**AD 60-61**

Led by queen Boudicca, the Iceni tribe join forces with the Trinovantes and, following their maltreatment at the hands of the new government, rise up in a war of independence against Rome. At least three cities, Colchester, London and St Albans, are destroyed before the tribes are finally defeated in battle.



**DEATH TOLL**

Druids are massacred by Romans on Anglesey

**AD 58-60**

Roman campaigns in north Wales conquering what seems to be a major druidical centre on Anglesey.



**AD 51**

Caratacus, leader of the British resistance, is finally captured after eight years of largely successful campaigning, having been betrayed to Rome by the Celtic queen Cartimandua of the Brigantes.



**AD 84**

At the battle of Mons Graupius, in what is now the Scottish Highlands, the Celtic leader Calgacus is defeated in battle by the Roman general Agricola. The emperor Domitian believes this to be the final victory against the Celtic tribes of Britain.



**HIGHLAND FLING**

The Romans meet the Celts at Mons Graupius

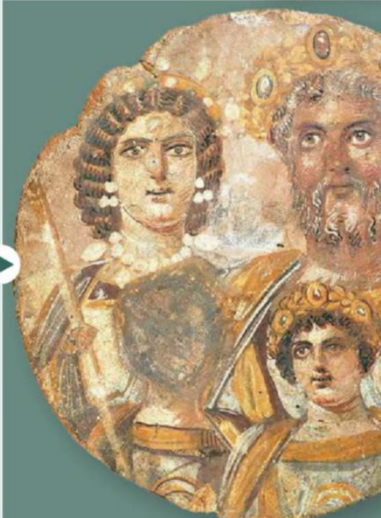


**AD 122**

Following a series of military defeats, the emperor Hadrian visits Britain and sets about establishing the northern limits of his empire by building a substantial wall to keep Romans and 'barbarians' apart.

**AD 180**

Hadrian's Wall is overrun by a mass of tribes from the north of Britain who cause significant disruption to the province. A Roman victory is only achieved four years later after significant fighting.





# of Celtic Britain

**Miles Russell** traces the fascinating story of the Celts

**55-54 BC**

Roman general Julius Caesar leads two military expeditions to southern Britain. His account provides us with the first record that we have for Celtic British leaders – such as Cassivellaunos, Mandubracios, Segovax, Carvilius, Cingetorix, Taximagulos and Lugotorix – as well as the Celtic tribes of the Trinovantes, Cenimagni, Segontiaci, Ancalites, Bibroci and Cassi.



**THE ROMANS ARE COMING**  
Julius Caesar leads two expeditions to Britain to punish the Celts

**52 BC**

Commios, a Celtic king from what is now Belgium, flees across the English Channel and becomes ruler of the Atrebates tribe in southern Britain. Based at Silchester near the modern town of Reading, it's here that, from around 30 BC, he mints coinage.



**AD 47-50**

Caratacus leads a successful guerilla campaign against the Roman army in south Wales with the Silures tribe, before shifting the theatre of war to Snowdonia in the north to lead the Ordovices.

**COUNTER ATTACK**

Caracatus led an anti-Roman revolt

**AD 43**

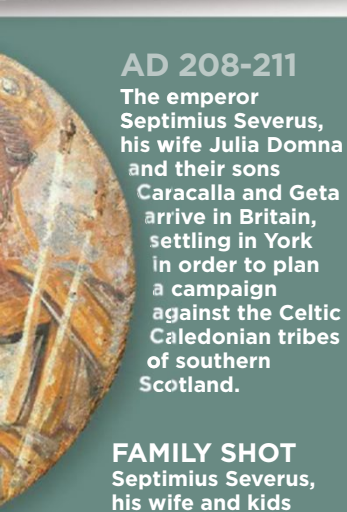
Emperor Claudius initiates the full conquest of southern Britain. Opposition is led by Caratacus, son of the now dead Cunobelinus. Many Celtic tribal leaders, like Prasutagus of the Iceni and Cartimandua of the Brigantes, surrender to Claudius and are treated as allies.

**AD 40-42**

A crisis in southern Britain, possibly a result of Cunobelinus' growing power, results first in the exile of his son Adminus and later to the expulsion of Celtic king Verica of the Atrebates tribe. Verica flees to Rome where he persuades the emperor Claudius to invade Britain and reinstate him to power.

**AD 10-40**

Cunobelinus (Shakespeare's 'Cymbeline') rules the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes tribes, his name appearing on coins minted at the tribal centres of Verlamion (St Albans) and Camulodunum (Colchester). His influence is such that the Roman writer Suetonius describes him as 'Great King of the Britons'.



**AD 208-211**

The emperor Septimius Severus, his wife Julia Domna and their sons Caracalla and Geta arrive in Britain, settling in York in order to plan a campaign against the Celtic Caledonian tribes of southern Scotland.

**FAMILY SHOT**

Septimius Severus, his wife and kids

**AD 367**

Tribes from Scotland and Ireland launch simultaneous attacks against the Roman province, together with the Franks and Anglo-Saxons from Germany. Order is not fully restored for a further two years.



**AD 409-410**

Britain is no longer formally part of the Roman Empire. Its future lies in the hands of various Romano British and Celtic warlords.

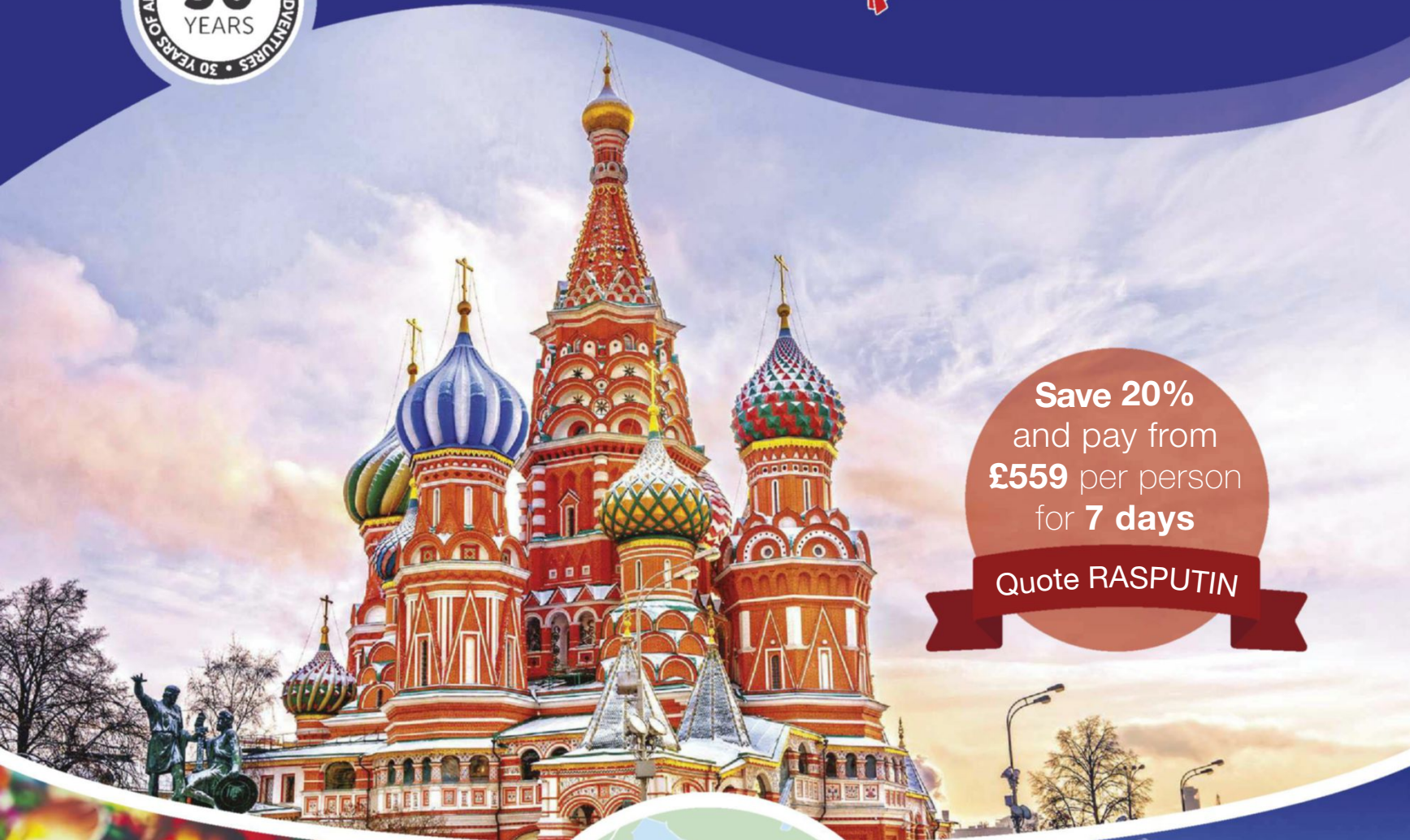
**C. AD 500**

The Britons, led by the warlord Ambrosius Aurelianus, inflict a great defeat against an Anglo-Saxon army at the siege of Mount Badon, probably located in south western Britain. The exploits of Ambrosius may well have inspired later tales of the Celtic war hero King Arthur.



**ON THE CHARGE**  
The Britons attack at the Battle of Badon





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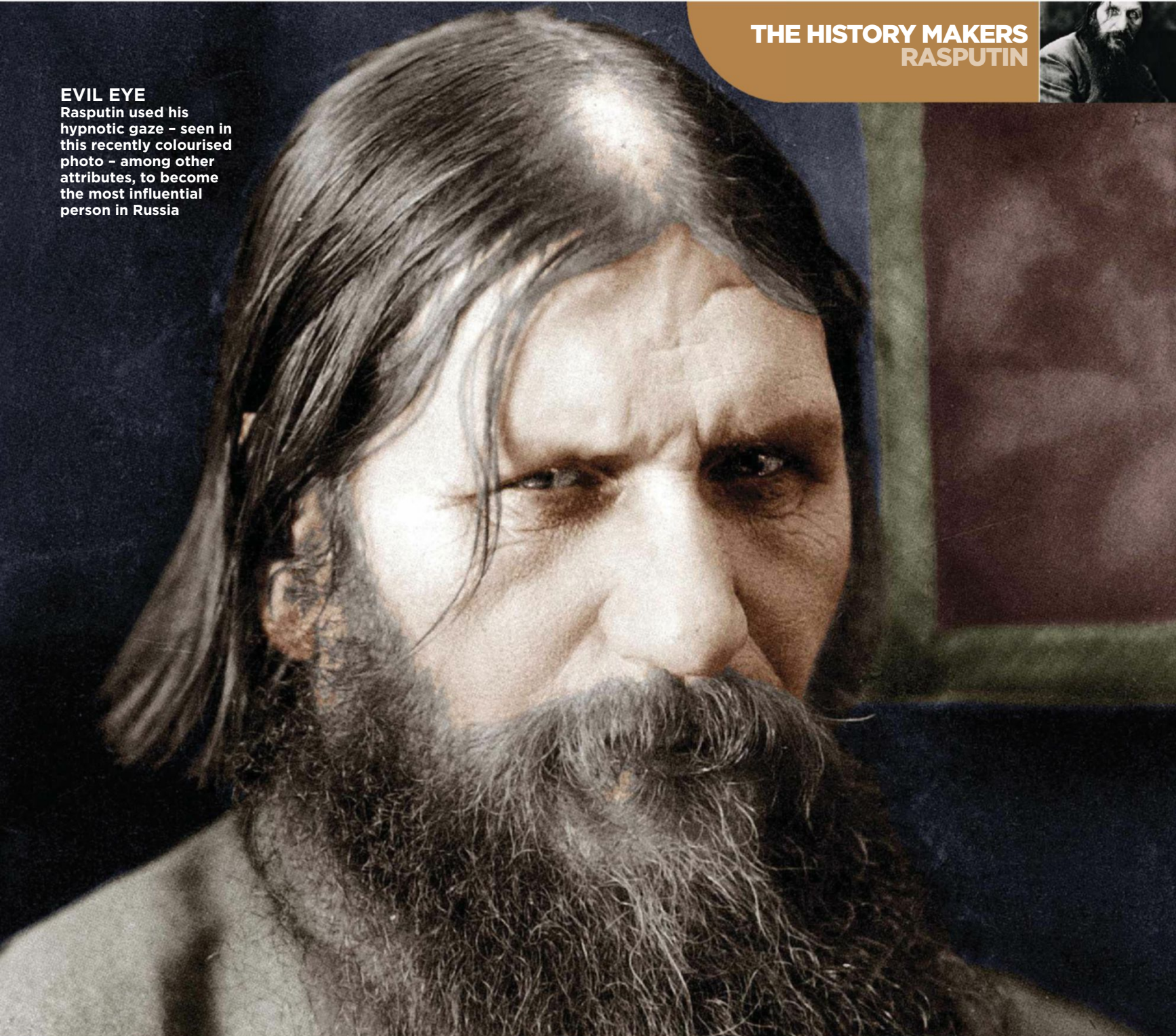
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**EVIL EYE**

Rasputin used his hypnotic gaze - seen in this recently colourised photo - among other attributes, to become the most influential person in Russia

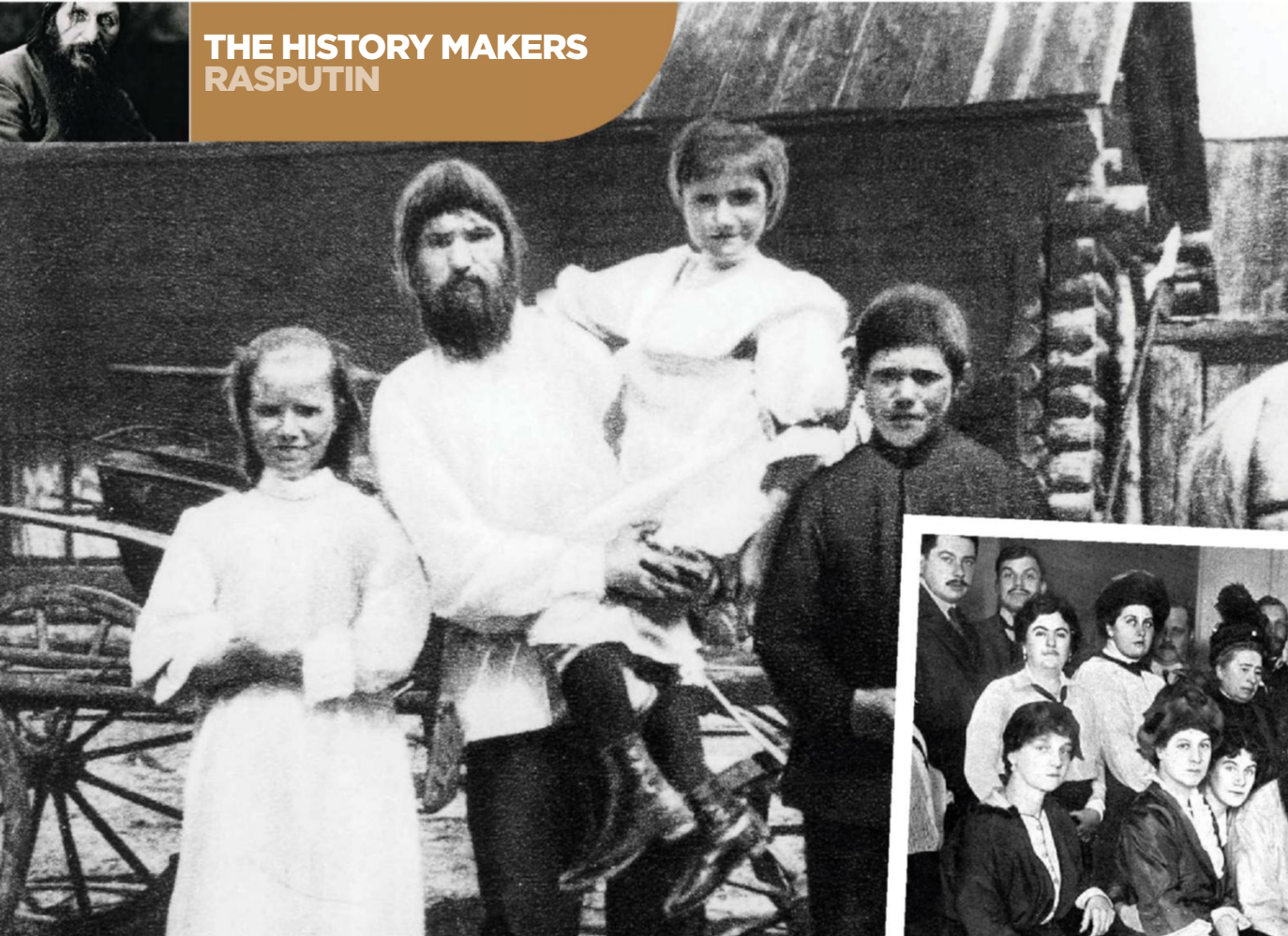


# THE MAD MONK RASPUTIN

He was a peasant who sexed his way to the heights of Imperial Russia, only to oversee its destruction, writes **Jonny Wilkes**

GETTY X2





**FAMILY MAN?**  
LEFT: Despite his reputation, Rasputin was married and had three children – Maria (far left) was devoted to her father, who she believed was a pious holy man  
BELOW: Rasputin, c1914, surrounded by his admirers – most of them female



**M**ysterious powers and eyes able to hypnotise; a penchant for bedding women despite his grubby disregard for personal hygiene; a dishevelled, tramp-like figure; preaching about how his constant, womanising was the key to spiritual salvation; a fondness for guzzling bottles of wine on a daily basis; and an assassination that saw him poisoned, beaten, shot and dumped in a freezing river – these are just some of the legends surrounding the life, and death, of Rasputin.

In pre-revolutionary Russia, there was no-one more divisive than this megalomaniac mystic. While adored by hordes of fanatics and the Tsarina Alexandra herself – who believed his powers to be healing her sick son – Rasputin was despised and feared by most of the country's elite. To them, Rasputin was the evil puppet master to a weak-willed monarchy and his murder, on 30 December 1916, was necessary to save the country from catastrophe. Yet, as the numerous attempts required to finish him off seemed to demonstrate, Rasputin's

influence was devilishly difficult to stamp out.

## DEBAUCHED ONE

When a 34-year-old Rasputin arrived in the Russian capital of St Petersburg in 1903, his timing couldn't have been better. Interest in mysticism and the occult was growing among the city's fashionable circles, and Rasputin was perfectly placed to take advantage of such a craze. For years, the illiterate Siberian peasant turned self-professed holy man (despite his nickname today, he was never a monk) had

the age of 18, he built a reputation as a healer – one who could predict the future and grant divine deliverance. This was achieved through his doctrine of 'holy passionlessness', which claimed that the best way to be closer to God was through sinful actions, especially those of the flesh. His flesh, to be exact. No wonder his name changed from Grigory Yefimovich Novykh to Rasputin, thought to mean 'the debauched one'.

**“Rasputin dipped his dirt-crust-ed fingers into jam so women could lick them clean”**

been travelling through Russia, and he claimed to have travelled as far as Greece and Jerusalem. Having converted to a radical religious sect at

Despite his filthy hair and beard and malodorous appearance, Rasputin's followers grew in number, and he took pleasure in treating them however he wanted. There are accounts from his life – be they true or rumours – that Rasputin dipped his dirt-crust-ed fingers into jam so women could “humble” themselves by licking them clean. He supposedly honoured his admirers further with innuendo-laden nicknames, such as ‘Sexy Girl’, ‘Hot Stuff’ and ‘Boss Lady’, or by having them bathe his naked body. Once, he allegedly invited two young sisters to a bathhouse, and declared to their mother that it was a “Day of Salvation”.

**NICHOLAS II, TSAR OF RUSSIA**  
**“He is just a good, religious, simple-minded Russian. When in trouble or assailed by doubts I like to have a talk with him, and invariably feel at peace with myself afterwards.”**





# ROTTEN RASPUTIN

The sights (and smells) of the mad monk's appearance – in life and on the night he died

## GUNSHOT WOUND NO 3

It is likely that, if he lived as long as claimed, Rasputin **finally died from a third revolver shot**, fired at point-blank range into his forehead.

## MAD, STARING EYES

Rasputin's seduction success has been put down to his hypnotic blue eyes, as everyone he met commented on **his intense, mesmeric gaze**. He could allegedly enlarge and contract his pupils at will.

## FOUL MOUTH

Rasputin suffered from terrible breath – not helped by the fact that his **teeth were said to be so rotten** that they had turned black.

## BAD HAIR DAY

Although he spent much of his time in the presence of the Romanovs and their children, Rasputin's didn't care about the state of his straggly beard, which would often **catch crumbs of food**.

## SAVE ON WASHING

Not changing his clothes was common enough for Rasputin – he **wouldn't even get out of them to sleep**. He once claimed not to have changed his underwear for six months.

## HANDS OFF

Although his hands were "grimy, with bitten, blackened nails", Rasputin's followers collected his nail clippings – they would **sew them into the hem of their dresses** so they would be "protected by his shield".

## GUNSHOT WOUND NO 1

After the poisoned wine and cakes failed to do their work, Rasputin was shot in the chest. Although the **bullet hit his stomach and liver** before exiting the body, he is said to have survived.

## GUNSHOT WOUND NO 2

As Rasputin, who had already been shot, tried to escape, he was hit again by one of the assassins. The **bullet struck him in his back** and went through his kidney.

## FARMYARD FUNK

Many **people found it difficult to be close** to Rasputin for any length of time. One man wrote after meeting him for the first time that he smelled "like a goat".





**“If I am killed by common men, you and your children will rule Russia for centuries to come; if I am killed by one of your stock, you and your family will be killed by the Russian people!”**

*Rasputin to Tsar Nicholas II*

Acolytes would crowd, sometimes in their hundreds, outside his house, hoping to seek an audience with Rasputin, nab a souvenir (including nail clippings) or leave gifts of flowers. “Idiots bring flowers every day. They know I love them,” he once quipped.

All this was foreplay, however, as Rasputin’s true holy work was carried out by sleeping with these women, on the promise that contact with his body could purify the soul. Although he had sex with countless women, including married nobles, Rasputin’s wife and mother to his children – whom he married aged 19 – remained loyal. Treated like another of his devotees, she once said, “He has enough for all”.

His lechery didn’t stop Rasputin from rising to very top of Russian society. In fact, it was his claims of magical healing powers that led to his

introduction to Tsar Nicholas II and his wife Alexandra, as they were looking for someone to cure their sickly son.

### **FRIEND TO THE ROMANOVs**

Traditional doctors had been unable to treat the young Alexei – who suffered from haemophilia, meaning his blood wouldn’t clot properly whenever he was injured – so a desperate Alexandra turned to unorthodox healers. When Rasputin supposedly managed to stop a bad bleeding episode in 1908, through prayer, the Tsarina fell under his spell. Rasputin became “Our Friend” to the Romanov family, and was summoned whenever Alexei needed faith healing. In 1912, the Prince’s condition deteriorated so badly that he received the last sacrament. On hearing the news, Rasputin sent

a telegram to Alexandra, reading: “The little one will not die. Do not allow the doctors to bother him too much.” Alexei recovered, Rasputin’s bond with the royals strengthened and his name spread throughout Russia.

As Rasputin’s influence over the Romanovs rose, their popularity went down. They already struggled for support, as Nicholas II didn’t have the strength and gravitas of his father, Alexander III, especially following his ineffective leadership during the Revolution of 1905. Meanwhile, Alexandra, as a German, was treated with suspicion in Russia’s insular society, worsened by her desire to live in seclusion to raise her children, rather than be a public face of the dynasty. So when the Romanovs elevated a peasant mystic with a lascivious reputation, tensions were only exacerbated. And Rasputin did nothing to help matters as, with increased power, he went about his debauched lifestyle with greater impunity.

While Alexandra invited Rasputin to spend time with Alexei and her daughters (where he played the perfect holy man), his enemies spread rumours about him. It was even claimed that, in a drunken haze, Rasputin boasted the Tsarina among his sexual conquests, although

**BRIAN MOYNAHAN, ENGLISH WRITER**  
**“A complex figure, intelligent, ambitious, idle, generous to a fault, spiritual, and – utterly – amoral.”**





### TSAR-DAZING

LEFT: Rumours and caricatures like this spread the myth that Rasputin held magical power over Tsar Nicholas II and his wife  
MIDDLE: The Romanov family in 1914  
RIGHT: In 1914, Rasputin (seen recovering in hospital) almost died when a crazed woman stabbed him in the stomach

there is no evidence for this and it seems unlikely as Alexandra was, by all accounts, devoted to her husband. When the attacks on their beloved friend reached the ears of the Romanovs, they refused to accept them. "I know Rasputin too well to believe all the tittle-tattle about him," stated Nicholas. Alexandra went further with her praise: "Saints are always calumniated. He is hated because we love him." Even when the accusations against Rasputin became overwhelming – including an incident in March 1915, when he pulled down his trousers and, as one eyewitness put it, waved his "reproductive organ" in a restaurant – the Romanovs were too dependent on him for the health of Alexei. To many, Rasputin threatened the very existence of the Russian Empire.

The outbreak of World War I heralded a new chapter in Rasputin's power. Nicholas II,

probably persuaded by whisperings in his ear, took personal command of his forces in September 1915, leaving Alexandra in charge of the affairs of state. Although he was initially against the war, Rasputin had now become the most powerful man in the country. He removed enemies from their positions and replaced them with his own choices, blackmailed 2,000 roubles out of anyone hoping to avoid the front line and did little to assist the war effort.

Opposition cries of treason and sabotage grew louder, not only aimed at Rasputin, but against the monarchy too. Revolution seemed imminent, and preventing it meant, to many nobles,

freeing the Romanovs from their pernicious puppet master. Rasputin had to die.

### CHEATING DEATH

Details of what happened on 29 December 1916 are far from certain, but it is thought Rasputin spent the day doing what he knew best: gulping down a dozen bottles of wine and possibly spending time with followers in a bathing house. That evening, he trudged through the snow-covered streets of St Petersburg (or Petrograd, as it was then), on his way to the home of Prince Feliks Yusopov, the wealthy husband to Nicholas's niece, for a rendezvous with his beautiful, young wife Irina.

Yusopov, along with a small cabal of conspirators including the Tsar's cousin, had other plans. Rasputin was led downstairs to wait for Irina, who wasn't even in the same city, and offered wine and cakes laced with cyanide. Despite consuming enough to kill five men, it is claimed, Rasputin showed no signs of succumbing to the poison. It was then that Yusopov retrieved a revolver and shot him at close range. Somehow, however, he didn't die. As the conspirators celebrated with a glass

of wine, Rasputin opened his eyes, got to his feet and made it to the courtyard before being chased down and shot a second time, sending him crashing to the ground at the palace gate.

If the story is to be believed, Rasputin still twitched with life, so the assassins beat him – with vicious consideration given to his crotch, which had caused so much trouble in their eyes. For good measure, one more bullet was fired, this time into his brain. They wrapped the body in a carpet and hurled it into the Neva River (although some claim he may have been alive when he hit the water, and actually perished by drowning). Rasputin's body was discovered a couple of days later, washed up on the shore – his arms raised as if he had broken his bonds in one last attempt to cheat death.

Not long before he died, Rasputin allegedly wrote an warning to the Romanovs, reading: "When the bell tolls three times, it will announce that I have been killed. If I am killed by common men, you and your children will rule Russia for centuries to come; if I am killed by one of your stock, you and your family will be killed by the Russian people! Pray Tsar of Russia. Pray." Although the authenticity of this letter is debated, the Romanov dynasty did indeed come crashing down, after more than three centuries, with the Revolution of 1917 (see *Russian Revolution*, below). Much of Rasputin's life and death is steeped in unanswerable questions and unreliable sources, but there is no doubt of the enigmatic, shadowy role he played in the bloody end of Imperial Russia. That is one of the reasons why he remains so fascinating today. He has become more myth than man. ☉



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Would the Russian Revolution still have happened without Rasputin's involvement?

Email: [editor@historyrevealed.com](mailto:editor@historyrevealed.com)

## AFTER THE MAD MONK RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

While Tsarina Alexandra was distraught on hearing the news of Rasputin's death, most of Russia celebrated the news. At best, the mystic was corrupt and immoral, but at the worst, he was evil. There was so much public support for his death that Tsar Nicholas II feared to punish his killers too harshly, in case it sparked riots.

Such was the loathing towards Rasputin that, while alive, he had provided a handy scapegoat for the Romanovs. With him gone, however, resentment towards the weak ruling dynasty sharpened. Nicholas made enemies of the Duma, a parliament created after the 1905 Revolution, by dissolving it when he met with opposition.

World War I crippled Russia's economy, killed men at a rate never experienced before and caused food shortages. In early 1917, the February Revolution broke out in St Petersburg and, when troops were ordered to break it up, they mutinied. Nicholas was forced to abdicate, bringing an end to a dynasty that lasted more than 300 years, and a provisional government was established. This wouldn't last long either, as a second revolution later that year put Vladimir Lenin's Bolsheviks in power.

On 17 July 1918, Nicholas, Alexandra and their five children – who had been under house arrest – were executed.

A cleaner-than-usual Rasputin with Alexandra (far right) and the Romanov children



### MEDICAL FLUKE

Exactly how Rasputin was able to treat Alexei Romanov is subject to debate, with theories ranging from **hypnosis** to his distrust of a new medicine, **aspirin**, which exacerbates the problems of haemophilia.



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THICK AS THIEVES

Frank Sinatra and his pal John F Kennedy are all smiles at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas in February 1960. But how long will the good times last?



# JOHN F KENNEDY, SINATRA AND THE MOB

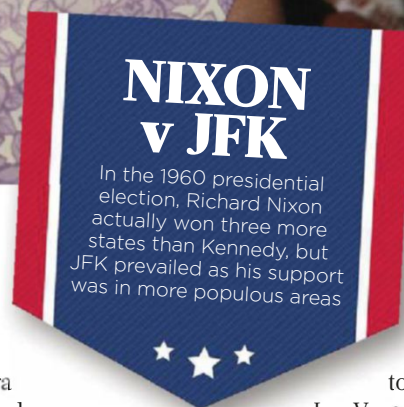
How did the leader of the Rat Pack, a man with rumoured Mafia connections, help JFK reach the White House? **Nige Tassell** tells a story of corruption, greed and perhaps even murder...

GETTY X2





**CIRCLE OF INFLUENCE**  
Sinatra and JFK sit either side of the politician's sister Patricia, who was married to Rat Pack member Peter Lawford



**F**rank Sinatra was angry. Livid. Livid enough to take an axe to the fixtures and fittings of his Palm Springs home. Livid enough to storm out of the house, brandishing a sledgehammer. Livid enough to rain blows down upon the heli-pad he had recently had modified, shards of concrete flying off in all directions.

John F Kennedy was the reason for his anger. The President – his close friend – had just cancelled a March 1962 visit to Sinatra's California residence, the desert retreat that the singer had recently upgraded, at no small cost, in advance of the presidential arrival. But this was no casual change of plans. This was a snub to Sinatra, to his standing, to his reputation. It was a loss of face that signalled the end of both their friendship and their political allegiance.

The fracture was terminal because Kennedy's trip still went ahead. He flew out to Palm Springs as planned, but stayed with a musical rival of Sinatra's instead – his near-neighbour Bing Crosby. What made things even worse for the lifelong, dyed-in-the-wool Democrat was that Crosby was a staunch Republican. The

official explanation offered was that Crosby's house provided a more secure base for the most powerful man on the planet. But Sinatra knew that was baloney. The real reason was that the White House didn't want to be tainted by the singer's close connections to some of organised crime's biggest players.

## **“THE PAIR MADE AN IRRESISTIBLE COMBINATION – THE POLITICIAN AND THE ENTERTAINER”**

A third party was used to deliver the message to Sinatra – Peter Lawford, one of his partners in the showbiz gang the Rat Pack who just happened to also be JFK's brother-in-law. And, with that, the President severed all ties with Ol' Blue Eyes – a man who may have been key to JFK's ascendancy less than two years earlier. But the sidestepping of such potentially negative publicity was deemed to be worth the loss of friendship. Besides, the switch of venues had another advantage. Marilyn Monroe was allegedly keeping Kennedy's bed warm round at Bing's place.

It had all been so different. In the election year of 1960, Sinatra and the then-Senator had partied together, whether in the finest Las Vegas hotels or on the set of the Rat Pack film *Ocean's 11*. The pair had stood shoulder-to-shoulder on campaign platforms. Sinatra had recorded a campaign song for the Democrat candidate. And, on the eve of JFK's inauguration, the singer had organised and hosted a star-studded celebratory gala.

The pair made an irresistible combination – the politician and the entertainer, both with voter-friendly, matinee-idol looks. The bromance continued once Kennedy took office. “JFK was his friend,” Sinatra's daughter Nancy later wrote. “For the patriotic American dreamer, this was the ultimate compliment: the President of the United States was his friend.”

### **UNSAVOURY UNDERWORLD**

Not only was Sinatra a public asset on the campaign trail, his connections to the more unsavoury elements of the criminal underworld also proved beneficial to a pre-election Kennedy.





# SINATRA GOES MOB-HANDED

The singer had an enduring fascination with criminals

"Our errand boy." That's how Chicago boss Sam Giancana referred to Frank Sinatra, the go-between who linked the criminal underworld with the White House. That Giancana's gang didn't necessarily respect the singer is confirmed by the revelation that certain members wanted Sinatra bumped off after his influence over President Kennedy didn't prove as effective as expected.

Long before he hooked up with Giancana, Sinatra had been called before a Senate committee investigating the Mob. There, he was questioned about photographs that showed him socialising with legendary gangster Lucky Luciano in pre-revolution Cuba. The hearing was held behind closed doors. Had it been in public, the revelations would have shattered his career.

Sinatra was also business partners with several notable gangsters, not least Paul 'Skinny' D'Amato. The pair were major shareholders in Cal-Neva, a resort on the California-Nevada border that contained

secret tunnels to allow the easy, undetected movement of mobsters. It wasn't foolproof, though. After Giancana was spotted in the lobby, Sinatra's gambling licence was revoked.

When Mario Puzo's novel *The Godfather* was published in 1969, Sinatra was angry at the thinly veiled similarities between himself and the character Johnny Fontane, a singer whose career is rejuvenated after the Mafia 'persuades' a Hollywood studio boss to cast him in a major movie (Sinatra's role in *From Here To Eternity* (1953) allegedly came about in a similar fashion). But his anger didn't last. When the 1972 film adaptation was made, career-savvy Sinatra offered his services to director Francis Ford Coppola for the part of Don Vito Corleone (played in the end by Marlon Brando).



**BAD COMPANY**  
ABOVE: Don Vito Corleone and the Sinatra-inspired character Johnny Fontane have words in *The Godfather* (1972)  
LEFT: Sinatra's Cal-Neva resort, which he co-owned with a mobster



According to Sinatra's youngest daughter Tina, JFK's father Joe – an ambitious millionaire, who was said to be no stranger to shady business deals himself (see *Kennedy Senior*, overleaf) – approached the singer, requesting he be the conduit between the Kennedys and the Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana, a known associate of Sinatra. Kennedy Sr needed to shore up his son's election chances, by whatever means necessary.

The proposal was made via Sinatra because, said Tina, "It would be in Jack [John] Kennedy's best interest if his father did not make contact directly. Dad was on an errand." The request was for Giancana, a self-claimed former Al Capone hitman, to wield his influence over the unions on Chicago's West Side in order to deliver the number of votes needed for JFK to take Illinois come that November's presidential election.

The Mob's approach would be two-fold. In *The Dark Side Of Camelot*, a book that reputedly exposes the reality beneath the shiny Kennedy veneer, author Seymour Hersh explains that "The deal included an assurance that Giancana's men would get out the Kennedy vote among the rank and file in the Mob-controlled unions in Chicago and elsewhere, and a commitment for campaign contributions from the corrupt Teamsters' union fund". In return, the suggestion was that, if elected, the Kennedy administration wouldn't be too energetic in its pursuit of the Mob.

## LIVE TRANSMISSION

JFK's charisma went a long way on the small screen

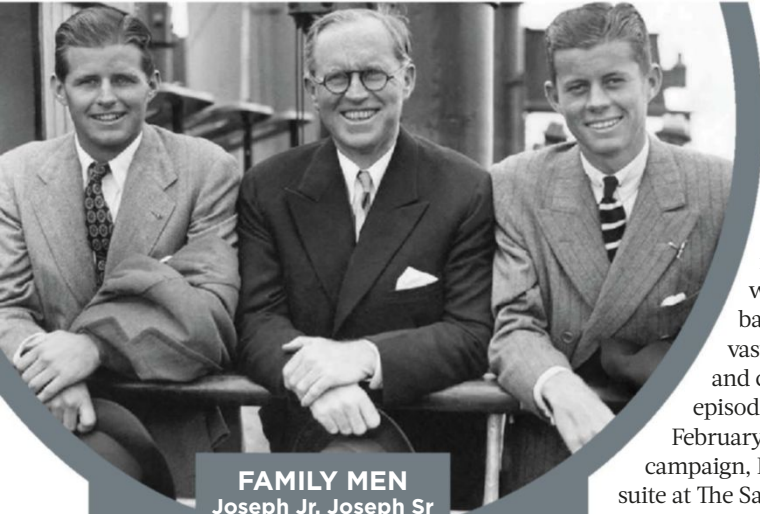
History tells us that the pivotal moment of the 1960 presidential election campaign came on 26 September, when Kennedy and his Republican opponent Richard Nixon went head-to-head in the first televised debate. Kennedy – coached by his Rat Pack brother-in-law Peter Lawford – delivered the more dynamic and assured performance on the small screen. Television had very quickly become a crucial component of presidential elections. In 1950, just 11 per cent of American homes had a TV set; by 1960, that figure had leapt to 88 per cent. But, while hindsight suggests that the evening's debate – watched by an estimated 70 million voters – had decided the election result there and then, Kennedy's passage to the White House perhaps required more sinister assistance.

### FIGHTING TALK

L-R The two candidates face each other; an American family watches the live showdown







**FAMILY MEN**  
Joseph Jr, Joseph Sr  
and John smile for  
the camera in 1938

## KENNEDY SENIOR

The head of the Kennedy family was no ordinary Joe...

From first glance, Joseph Patrick Kennedy – JFK’s father – looked the part of the establishment figure. A self-made millionaire, he also served as Franklin Roosevelt’s Ambassador to Britain during part of World War II. He made his wealth in a range of industries, including commodity trading, real estate and, according to recurring rumours, illicit alcohol distribution during the Prohibition years (1920–33). It was also alleged that, during this latter period, he forged close links with organised crime across the nation.

He didn’t save all his ambition for himself. He earmarked his eldest son Joseph Jr to run for the White House but, when he was killed in action in 1944, Kennedy Sr’s attentions turned to the next boys in line – John and Robert. Being a controversial figure in many people’s eyes, Joe kept behind the scenes as much as possible, but he was the one pulling the strings of both men’s swift political ascendancies, drawing on his contacts and influence.

He continued to drive their political lives, even after John was elected President. The decision to make Robert Attorney General was effectively Joe’s, despite John’s perfectly justifiable protests that his brother had yet to try or defend a single case in court. Such was the power of his father, though, that the older sibling still made the appointment, albeit not without a little humour. “I can’t see that it’s wrong to give him a little legal experience before he goes out to practice law.”

◀ Sinatra’s go-between role didn’t seem to end with that initial approach to Giancana. He was reportedly also employed as a bag-man – literally – transporting vast sums of cash between gangster and campaign organisers. One such episode highlights this perfectly. In

February 1960, during the early days of the campaign, Kennedy was partying in Sinatra’s suite at The Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. The other Rat Packers were in attendance. At one point, Peter Lawford is reported to have taken Sammy Davis Jr aside. “If you want to see what a million dollars in cash looks like, go into the next room,” Lawford said. “There’s a brown leather satchel in the closet. It’s a gift from the hotel owners for Jack’s campaign.”

Sinatra’s commitment to the Kennedy cause was also shown in other ways. In early 1960, he re-recorded his hit *High Hopes* with new election-themed lyrics. Released around the time of the primary in electorally crucial West Virginia, jukeboxes right across the state – controlled by organised crime, of course – were quickly updated with the disc and its rewritten lyrics: “Everyone is voting for Jack / ‘Cos he’s got what all the rest lack”.

The problem was that not everyone was actually voting for Jack. By the time of the election that November, national opinion polls put Kennedy at 51 per cent and Nixon at 49 per cent. The result couldn’t be left to chance; the Mob needed to mobilise. Everyone in Chicago’s

political firmament knew how crucial organised crime would be in determining the local outcome. On the eve of the election, the city’s Mayor Richard Daley stated his conviction that JFK would win the state, “With the help of a few close friends”.

## GROSS MALPRACTICE

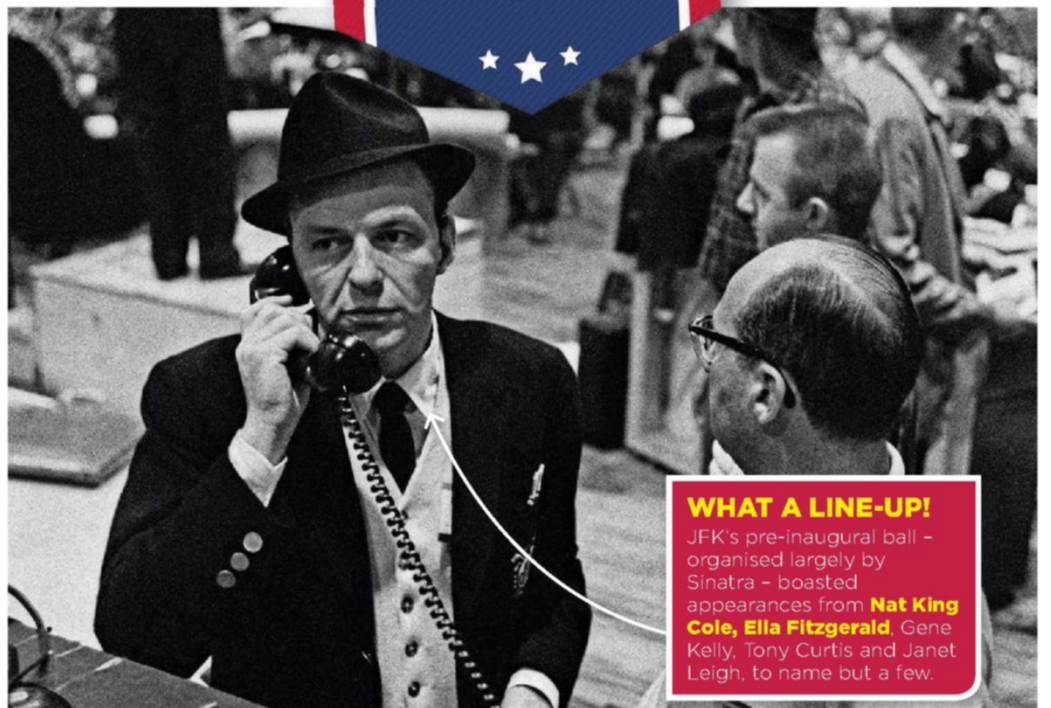
Throughout the day and night of Tuesday 8 November, Giancana reportedly sat poised before a bank of telephones. He was scrutinising local voting returns, making calls to associates in the field whenever results might need a little ‘recalibrating’. This took several forms. After the election, Federal Special Prosecutor Morris Wexler conducted a secret inquiry into the voting patterns that day in Chicago. His report, presented the following April, uncovered gross malpractice, whether it was “substantial” miscounts, “unqualified voters, misread voting machines and math mistakes”. The tactics described certainly weren’t subtle. “Votes weren’t bought,” the widow of a Giancana associate later claimed. “[They were] commanded, demanded and, in a few places, cajoled.”

These means may have secured the result though, with Kennedy pipping Nixon for Illinois by less than 9,000 votes out of 4.7 million. Other marginal states – like Nevada and

Michigan – also narrowly went JFK’s way. These were states where the strong arm of organised crime tended to affect political outcomes. Nationally, the result was similarly narrow, one of the closest presidential elections in US history. Less

**\$4  
MILLION**

The amount that the former dyed-in-the-wool Democrat Frank Sinatra donated to Ronald Reagan’s election campaign in 1980



## WHAT A LINE-UP!

JFK’s pre-inaugural ball – organised largely by Sinatra – boasted appearances from **Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Gene Kelly, Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh**, to name but a few.

## THE VOICE ON THE LINE

Sinatra takes a call during rehearsals for JFK’s pre-inaugural ball in January 1961





**MADE MAN**  
Sam 'Moody'  
Giancana,  
number two  
leader of the  
Chicago crime  
syndicate

than 0.2 per cent of the popular vote separated the two candidates.

Regardless of the size of victory, it seemed that Giancana and his men had crucially delivered Illinois. Perhaps justifiably, he expected that the flexing of his political muscle would now bear fruit. He looked forward to a new man in the White House turning a blind eye to organised crime.

In the aftermath of the election, the new administration wasted no time in employing the methods of spin and cover-up. According to Seymour Hersh, FBI Director J Edgar Hoover's widespread use of illegal wiretaps had made him well aware of any corruption that had swept JFK to the Oval Office (see *1960s: Mafia in Decline*). Indeed, allegations of electoral fraud were filed in no less than 11 states. But, as Hersh explains, once Kennedy had appointed his little brother Robert to the post of Attorney General in January 1961, the investigation into electoral fraud was stopped in its tracks.

## THE GOOD TIMES

At the Sinatra-organised gala to celebrate JFK's inauguration that January, the new President publicly applauded the singer's support and influence – without, of course, making reference to the tactics employed by his associates. "Long before he could sing," he informed the buoyant audience, "he used to poll a Democratic precinct back in New Jersey. That precinct has grown to cover a country." It was an acknowledgement that Sinatra, having answered Joe Kennedy's request, had helped usher his son to power. All smiles, job done. But the post-election honeymoon wasn't to last.

The newly anointed Attorney General had the Mob in his crosshairs almost immediately. If Joe Kennedy had given Giancana any tacit assurances that the Mafia wouldn't be pursued too rigorously, his third-born son was now smashing those to pieces. Organised crime was targeted in a manner not seen since the gangster-heavy days of Prohibition. In the final year of Dwight Eisenhower's administration, 45 mobsters had been convicted. Within three years of Robert Kennedy's tenure, this figure rocketed to 288. He even opened an office

## 1960s: MAFIA IN DECLINE

The Mob bosses had had it easy for too long...

The 1960s were watershed years for organised crime in the US. After being doggedly pursued by vigorous law-enforcement agencies in the 1930s – when notorious crime bosses like Al Capone and Lucky Luciano ruled – the postwar years saw the American chapters of the Mafia largely ignored by the authorities. After Prohibition ended, their criminal activities took many forms, including gambling, restaurants, construction and trucking, as well as controlling the labour unions.

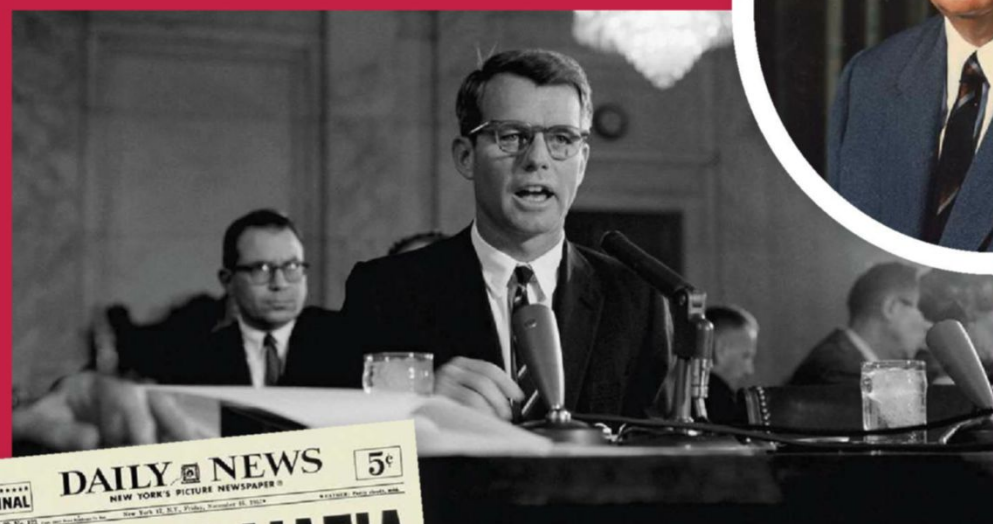
That they had been able to operate unfettered was largely due to FBI Director J Edgar Hoover. While focusing his attentions elsewhere during this time – primarily on homeland communists – Hoover also publicly denied the existence of a nationwide network of Mafia families. One theory as to why he downplayed the influence of the Mob, and allowed organised crime to remove itself from his radar, is that he was being blackmailed to do so. Hoover, a man who railed against homosexuality, was strongly believed to be gay himself; if the Mob allowed evidence of his sexuality to be made public, his career would be over and all the power he craved would be removed.

Hoover, though, couldn't hide one particular episode that revealed the extent to which crime families in the US were in league. The Apalachin Meeting

of 1957 was a summit of senior mafiosi held in a small hamlet in upstate New York. Hosted by Joseph Barbara – aka Joe The Barber – around 100 senior Mob bosses were present. But the summit, held in such a small community, was far from inconspicuous. The procession of expensive cars with out-of-state number plates alerted local police who detained and charged 58 noted mobsters. Hoover now couldn't avoid having to acknowledge the depth, breadth and connectedness of the Mafia world.

Despite the Mafia's help during JFK's presidential campaign in 1960, his brother Robert Kennedy – the newly appointed Attorney General – placed the breaking-up of the Mob network high on his agenda. In his first three years on the job, convictions of gangsters rose six-fold.

By 1970, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act applied more pressure on the Mob. Crucially, this legislation allowed for the trying of individuals who had ordered a particular crime to take place, not just those who had physically carried out the crime themselves. Mob bosses were no longer immune from prosecution for misdemeanours executed by their underlings.



**TIME TO CRACK DOWN**  
TOP: FBI Director J Edgar Hoover, who turned a blind eye to the Mafia ABOVE: Robert Kennedy takes the issue of organised crime to the Senate in September 1963 LEFT: Arrests made at the Apalachin Meeting made front-page news



## JFK, SINATRA AND THE MOB

### THE RAT PACK

The performers stand beneath their sign outside The Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, c1962



**62.8%**

The proportion of eligible voters in the 1960 election who actually visited the ballot box. It was the highest turnout in a presidential election since 1908

in Palm Springs from which his staff could monitor holidaying – and thus potentially off-guard – Chicago mobsters.

Having seemingly reneged on promises to organised crime, Kennedy now also cut loose his direct connection with the Mob – Frank Sinatra. Henry Peterson, a senior official in the Justice Department, was the one to brief JFK against staying at the singer's Palm Springs pad. "Sinatra has a long and wide association with hoodlums and gangsters which seems to be continuing,"

he wrote. "No other entertainer appears to be mentioned nearly so frequently with racketeers." Peter Lawford, the man charged with breaking the news of JFK's no-show to Sinatra, was subsequently written out of future Rat Pack films. The messenger hadn't been shot, but he had effectively been kicked out of the gang.

Sinatra also faced changed realities when it came to his dealings with the Mob; reports from FBI wiretaps reveal "Giancana's disappointment in Sinatra's inability to get the administration to

tone down its efforts in the Anti-Racketeering field". Some in the Mob fraternity felt that this disappointment should be articulated in dramatic fashion. One wiretap heard Johnny Formosa, one of Giancana's key men, suggest Sinatra should be "hit" for not delivering.

On the CBS current affairs show *60 Minutes*, Tina Sinatra recalled a conversation between a disgruntled Mob boss and a profoundly embarrassed singer. "Sam was saying: 'That's not right. You know he owes me,' meaning Joe Kennedy. Dad, I think, said: 'No, I asked you. I asked for the favour.'" To repay Giancana, Sinatra flew to the gangster's Villa Venice club in Chicago where his penance was to play 16 shows in eight days. He lived to sing another day.

Giancana was also furious with JFK's failure to enforce regime-change in Cuba. Prior to the

## "SINATRA'S PENANCE WAS TO PLAY 16 SHOWS AT GIANCANA'S CLUB"

## LOVE CONNECTION

Sinatra wasn't the only person to connect JFK and the Mob

As well as a friendship with Sinatra, JFK and Mob boss Sam Giancana also shared a mistress, a woman called Judith Campbell, introduced separately to the men by their mutual pal, and her ex, Ol' Blue Eyes.

Campbell later alleged that she was a messenger between the pair, carrying envelopes back and forth. These envelopes, she claimed, contained money or even details of a plot to kill Fidel Castro. With her story often contradicting itself, Campbell was seen as an unreliable witness, although her two-year affair with Kennedy, conducted before and after the 1960 election, was

vindicated by phone records between her and the White House.

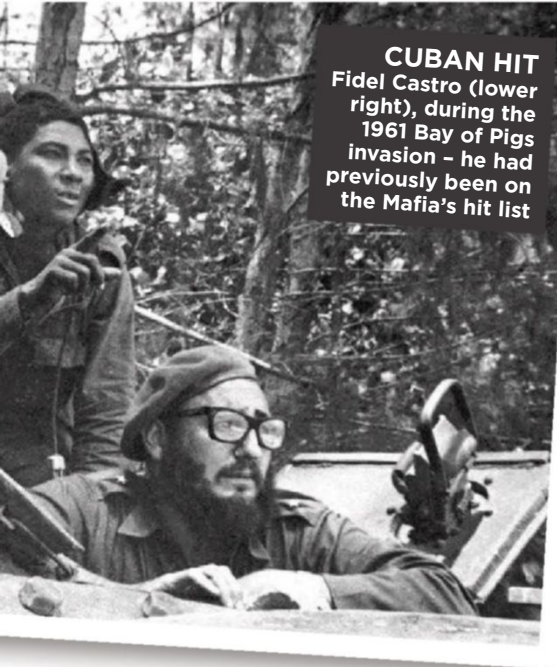
There are clear similarities with the Profumo Affair that shocked Britain at the same time – the revelation that war minister John Profumo and Soviet naval attaché Yevgeny Ivanov had both been sleeping with a woman named Christine Keeler. But, while the British government was rocked by the scandal, Kennedy's reputation remained undented. Perhaps if his relationship with Campbell was his only extra-marital dalliance, there might have been more of an outcry. Campbell, though, was but one of a long list of Kennedy's lovers.



### BED FELLOWS

Judith Campbell, who wooed both the President and a Mafia boss





**CUBAN HIT**  
Fidel Castro (lower right), during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion - he had previously been on the Mafia's hit list

1959 revolution, the island had been a swinging playground for mobsters but, on seizing power, Fidel Castro had nationalised or closed the Mob's casinos. With their interests on the island instantly cut off, they wanted Kennedy to remove the Cuban President. The CIA-backed Bay Of Pigs invasion of April 1961 had spectacularly failed, actually strengthening Castro's regime. (In fact, before the election, Giancana had been contacted by the CIA about plans to assassinate Castro, while simultaneously trying to skew the outcome of the upcoming election in the Democrats' favour.)

### THAT'S LIFE

As he settled into the White House, the gangster fraternity increasingly discovered Kennedy wasn't the man they thought he'd be. In 1962, Florida-based Mob boss Santo Trafficante reportedly observed that "[The Kennedys] took graft and they did not keep a bargain", before issuing a chilling prophecy: "Mark my word, this man Kennedy is in trouble, and he will get what is coming to him." After JFK was shot on 22 November 1963, in Dallas, Texas, the US Congress Assassinations Committee identified Trafficante as one of two Mafia personnel among their suspects.

When considering all the intertwining strands of a story that weave around organised crime, corruption, foreign policy, Hollywood glamour and the Oval Office, the claims of those who believe Kennedy's murder to be the result of a complex conspiracy certainly have more credence. The Mafia, annoyed both by Castro's retention of power in Cuba and by their persecution at the hands of a Kennedy administration that had broken its promises, certainly had motive for revenge. Who knows, perhaps it was the Mob who ended this particular story on that day in Dallas in November 1963. 📍

### GET HOOKED

#### READ

*The Dark Side Of Camelot* (1998), by investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, alleges a more sinister edge to JFK's public image.

**DEMOCRAT NO MORE**  
RIGHT: Republican President Nixon greets Sinatra at his home in California BELOW: Sinatra with Ronald and Nancy Reagan



### SHOCK ALLEGATIONS

In 1991, journalist Kitty Kelley published a biography of Nancy Reagan. Its most eye-catching claim was a **long-term affair** between the former First Lady and Frank Sinatra.

## OL' BLUE EYES AND THE PRESIDENTS

Sinatra shifted his allegiances to stay close to power

Throughout his adult life, Frank Sinatra had extraordinary access to the White House and to the ear of its occupant. During this time, the singer's political outlook underwent a notable evolution.

Sinatra was born into a Democrat family from Hoboken, New Jersey, where his mother was a party activist. While other entertainers remained politically neutral to protect their fanbase, Sinatra was more gung-ho, publicly endorsing FDR's campaign for a fourth term in 1944. "Some people tell me I may hurt my career by taking sides in a political campaign," he announced to a rally at Madison Square Gardens. "And I say to them, 'To hell with this career. Government is more important.'"

After FDR's death, the Democrat tickets of both Harry S Truman and Adlai Stevenson were also stamped with the Sinatra seal of approval. For JFK, he even changed the lyrics of his best-known songs; "That old black magic" became "That old Jack magic" at the pre-inaugural gala in 1961. But following his subsequent snubbing by Kennedy (see *main feature*), Sinatra's alignment with the Democrats began to wane. Despite still being a

card-carrying party member, he supported Republican Ronald Reagan's campaign to be re-elected Governor of California in 1970, indicating a shift in his political outlook.

This was confirmed when, in advance of the 1972 presidential election, George McGovern moved the Democrats further to the left. Sinatra reacted by throwing his weight behind Republican Nixon, much to the annoyance of his Democrat activist daughter, Tina. "I called him," she later recalled, "and said 'Goddamn it. I've been working for George McGovern for six months. I haven't swayed 20 voters and you just probably swayed 2 million.'"

When his pal Reagan ran for the White House in 1980, Sinatra deposited \$4 million into the coffers of his campaign fund. The pair would remain close, despite rumours of an affair between the singer and the First Lady, Nancy Reagan. "Stay well, stay strong, ignore the idiots," Sinatra once signed off a letter to the President. "You know what you have to do." An extraordinary political conversion, from FDR's philosophy of big government to market-led Reaganomics, was complete.



# THE YEARS OF APARTHEID

South Africa lived under an oppressive and ruthless system of racial segregation for nearly half a century

## TORMENT IN THE TOWNSHIPS

A group of children stare out from behind the barbed-wire fence encircling their Johannesburg township. As part of the all-white government's 'resettlement' plans – giving 80 per cent of the land to the white minority – 3.5 million non-whites are forced to leave their homes and live in segregated, poorly provided-for areas.

GETTY XG

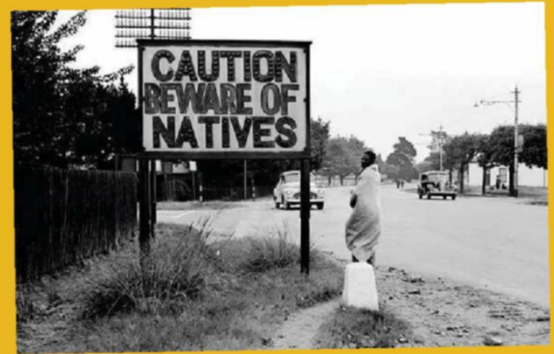


## AT A GLANCE

For almost 50 years, a system of racial segregation divided South Africa. Apartheid (meaning 'separateness' in Afrikaans) protected white minority rule by controlling the non-white population in all aspects of life, from what facilities they could use to where they could live. There was fierce opposition both inside the country - introducing the world to one of the 20th century's most influential figures, Nelson Mandela - and on the international stage, before apartheid's symbolic end in 1994.

## WORLDS APART

The governing National Party's laws disenfranchised non-whites and stripped them of their rights



### CLASSIFYING THE PEOPLE

Racial segregation has been in place before apartheid, but laws in the 1950s institutionalise discrimination further. Signs like those above become common. The Population Registration Act of 1950 classifies all South Africans by racial groups - 'Bantu' (black), 'White' and 'Coloured' (mixed race), with a fourth, 'Asian', added later. Such categories can legally split families apart.



### BEATINGS AT THE BEER HALL

Any action against apartheid - such as the 'Defiance Campaign' launched by the African National Congress (ANC) in 1952 - can provoke harsh treatment by both the law and police. In 1959, a group of non-white women are beaten by club-wielding officers, after they raided a beer hall in Durban and set fire to the building.

ALLEENLIK MALEIERS  
MALAYS ONLY  
ALLEENLIK BLANKES  
EUROPEANS ONLY



### SIGNS OF SEGREGATION

Contact between white and black is limited by segregated public spaces and facilities, education and jobs. Interracial marriage is also forbidden. Here, a black man risks police punishment just by sitting on a bench marked 'Europeans only'.



## NATIONAL HERO

Apartheid is met with strong opposition across the country, which leads both to peaceful demonstrations and armed resistance. In 1964, the charismatic ANC leader Nelson Mandela (far right), is sentenced to life imprisonment. During his time at Robben Island, he becomes a global figurehead for the anti-apartheid movement.



## GLOBAL VIEW

The international community's reaction to apartheid



## WIND OF CHANGE

During his historic speech in Cape Town in 1960 – where he signals an acceptance that the Empire is over – British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan talks frankly of his opposition to apartheid. Shocked by the Sharpeville Massacre a few weeks later, the world grows more horrified by the situation in South Africa.



## OVER THE LINE

South Africa doesn't just face censure and sanctions; there are also boycotts of its national rugby team. Controversial tours still take place, but amid protests and disruption of matches. On this Aberdeen pitch during the Springboks' 1969 tour of Britain and Ireland, two demonstrators clamber on to the posts.

## YOU SHALL NOT PASS

Burning their passbooks (an identification document aimed to restrict movement) is one way for non-whites to fight apartheid. But when thousands gather in the Sharpeville township on 21 March 1960 to protest peacefully against the draconian pass laws, police open fire. Sixty-nine people are killed and 180 wounded.



## JUST NOT CRICKET

When the English cricket team plans to tour South Africa in 1968-69, a political incident erupts over whether Basil D'Oliveira (left) will be part of the team. Born in South Africa, he is deemed to be 'coloured'. After heated exchanges, the tour is eventually cancelled.



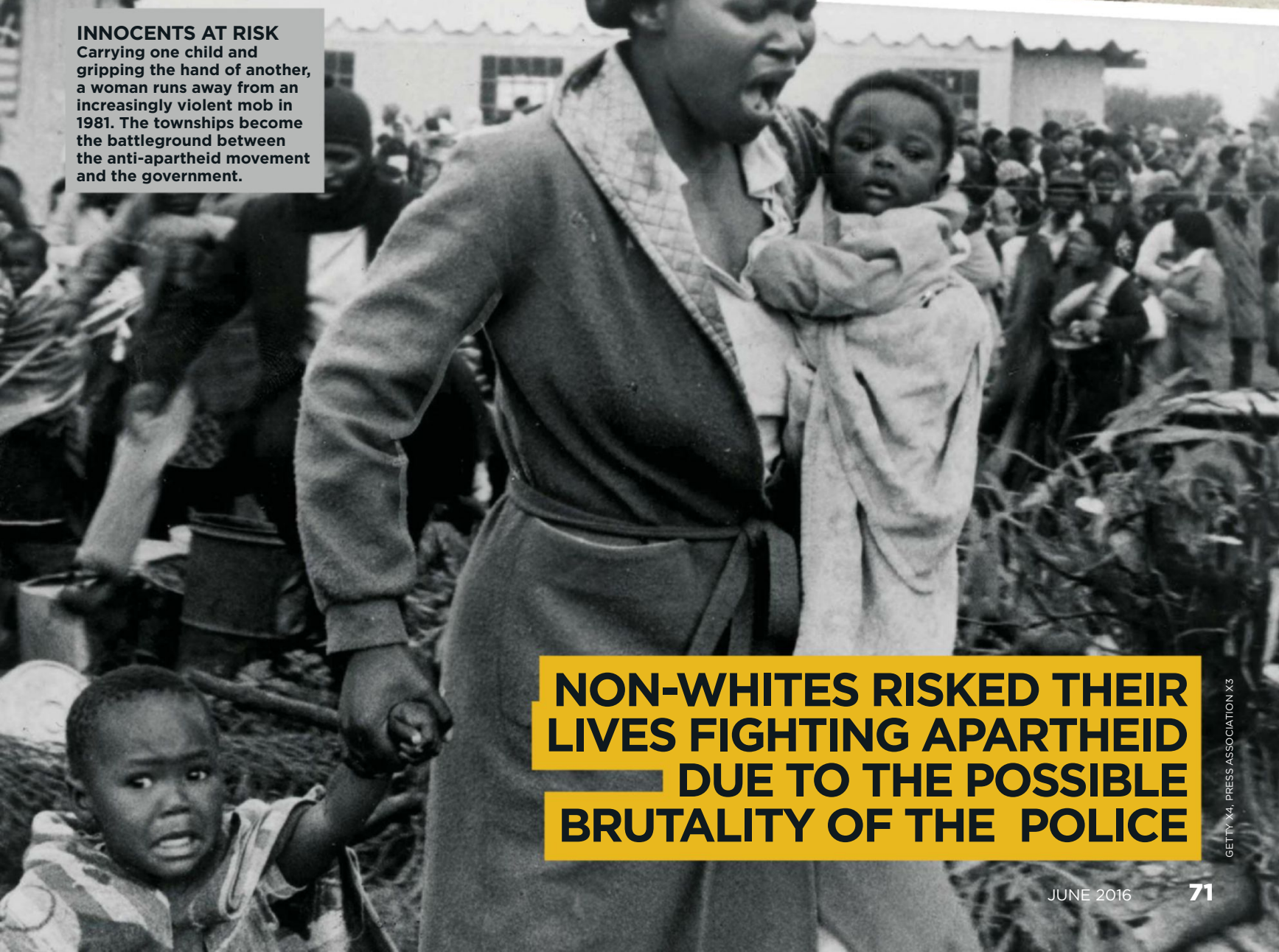
## BLACK AND WHITE CLASH

In 1976, more than 100 black South Africans are killed in the streets of the black township Soweto when anti-apartheid protests clash with police. The brutal clampdowns spark further riots in Cape Town - where this photo is taken - and global condemnation.



## INNOCENTS AT RISK

Carrying one child and gripping the hand of another, a woman runs away from an increasingly violent mob in 1981. The townships become the battleground between the anti-apartheid movement and the government.



**NON-WHITES RISKED THEIR  
LIVES FIGHTING APARTHEID  
DUE TO THE POSSIBLE  
BRUTALITY OF THE POLICE**



# RECONCILIATION

Even with overwhelming criticism, it remains a bitter struggle to force the end of the apartheid regime



## ON THE ROAD

In 1959, ten tribal homelands, *Bantustans*, had been created to stop blacks forming a unified group, while stripping away their citizenship. By the 1980s, non-whites are taking control of segregated areas. Here three men set up a roadblock at the entrance to the township of KwaNobuhle.



## STATE OF EMERGENCY

When South African president PW Botha declares a state of emergency in 1985, the country sees an increased presence of the armed forces. Botha, however, knows apartheid's days are numbered as he repeals the ban on interracial relationships and abolishes the pass laws. He instructs whites to "adapt or die".



## FREE MANDELA

What begins as a 1985 rally calling for the release of Nelson Mandela - 'Free Mandela' is a slogan of the anti-apartheid movement - turns into another riot, with this young black man being dragged away. After Botha resigns in 1989, his replacement FW de Klerk pledges to see Mandela released once and for all.

**"OUR STRUGGLE HAS REACHED A DECISIVE MOMENT. OUR MARCH TO FREEDOM IS IRREVERSIBLE."**

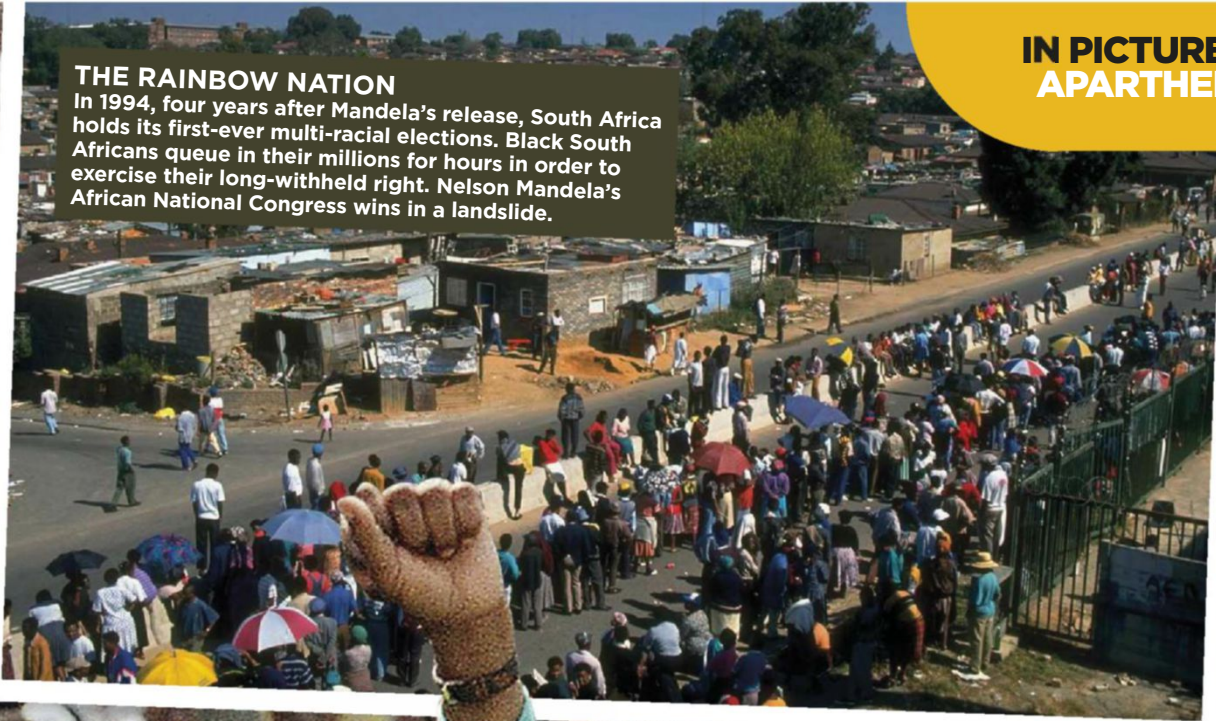
NELSON MANDELA





**THE RAINBOW NATION**

In 1994, four years after Mandela's release, South Africa holds its first-ever multi-racial elections. Black South Africans queue in their millions for hours in order to exercise their long-withheld right. Nelson Mandela's African National Congress wins in a landslide.



**MARCH TO FREEDOM**

As the world watches, Nelson Mandela is released on 11 February 1990, after almost three decades behind bars. Two days later, he walks hand in hand with his wife Winnie into Soccer City stadium in Soweto, where he is met by a cheering crowd of more than 100,000 blacks and whites. His message of forgiveness and fellowship helps eradicate apartheid and begin the healing from decades of division. Racial tensions, however, continue to cause conflict in South Africa.

GETTY X4, PRESS ASSOCIATION XI





### HIGH HOPES

Andrée's balloon is as filled with hydrogen as the Swedish explorer's head is with hopes. It's as ready as it will ever be for its first, and last, voyage

# OVER THE ARCTIC BY BALLOON

**Pat Kinsella** recounts the tale of Sweden's first balloonist Salomon August Andrée, who made an ill-fated, and ill-advised, attempt to float across the top of the world...

ALAMY XI. GRENNÄ MUSEUM - POLARCENTER XI



“From Spitsbergen, you can almost count on a northerly wind of two weeks’ duration. **It will carry a balloon across the roof of the world...**”

*Salomon August Andrée*





# GREAT ADVENTURES THE ARCTIC BALLOON EXPEDITION OF 1897

**A**mid the Heroic Age of Polar Exploration, at the end of the 19th century, more and more of the Earth's extreme secrets were unlocked by great bearded adventurers. But the proud northern nation of Sweden was lagging behind. This was unacceptable, especially as its smaller neighbour Norway was producing such pioneers as explorer Fridtjof Nansen.

The Swedes found their hero in the shape of engineer, physicist and explorer of the skies Salomon August Andrée. An enthusiastic balloonist, Andrée convinced himself, and then a group of influential supporters – including Sweden's King Oscar II and Alfred Nobel, dynamite inventor and founder of the Nobel Prize – that a prevailing wind and a big bag of hydrogen would allow him to stage a fly-by photoshoot of the as-yet-unseen North Pole.

Like a plot from a Jules Verne novel, Andrée's plan was intoxicatingly daring. With two companions, he would pilot a tailor-made hydrogen balloon from Svalbard across the Arctic Sea to the Bering Strait, skimming over the North Pole en route, before landing in Alaska. Or Canada. Or maybe Russia – wherever serendipity should bring him down to Earth.

## BASKET CASE

Andrée had been balloon-obsessed since meeting American balloonist John Wise at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. He acquired his own balloon, the Svea, in 1893, and made several pioneering flights across the Baltic, often landing in places – such as Finland – that he hadn't intended visiting.

The problem with balloons as vehicles is that the direction of travel is completely at the mercy of the wind, but Andrée believed he'd devised a system to wrest the controls away from the elements. By dangling drag ropes from the basket to the ground, creating friction and slowing the balloon down, he claimed that sails could be used to steer. Modern experts believe he was deluded by his own enthusiasm, and the technique has been widely rubbished. Even if it worked, myriad potential problems included ropes becoming tangled and snagged.

Regardless, with financial sponsorship, Andrée had a polar balloon made by a Parisian manufacturer, Henri Lachambre. Named Örnen ('Eagle'), it was made from double Chinese silk and had a capacity of 170,000 cubic feet. Below an American elmwood bearing ring hung a wicker gondola, which had three sleeping berths, storage for astronomical, meteorological and photographic equipment, plus rifles, food and survival equipment. Sledges and a collapsible canvas boat were stored in bags hanging from the bearing ring, and there were also cotes for 36 homing pigeons, trained in Norway in the hope they would return there once released. The much-disputed steering system comprised three canvas sails operated by guide ropes and, since hydrogen and flames



## THE MAIN PLAYERS

### SALOMON AUGUST ANDRÉE

Sweden's first balloonist, Andrée, was initially lauded a hero, but he has since been criticised for failings during the build up to and execution of the expedition, and is blamed for the deaths of his two colleagues.

### NILS STRINDBERG

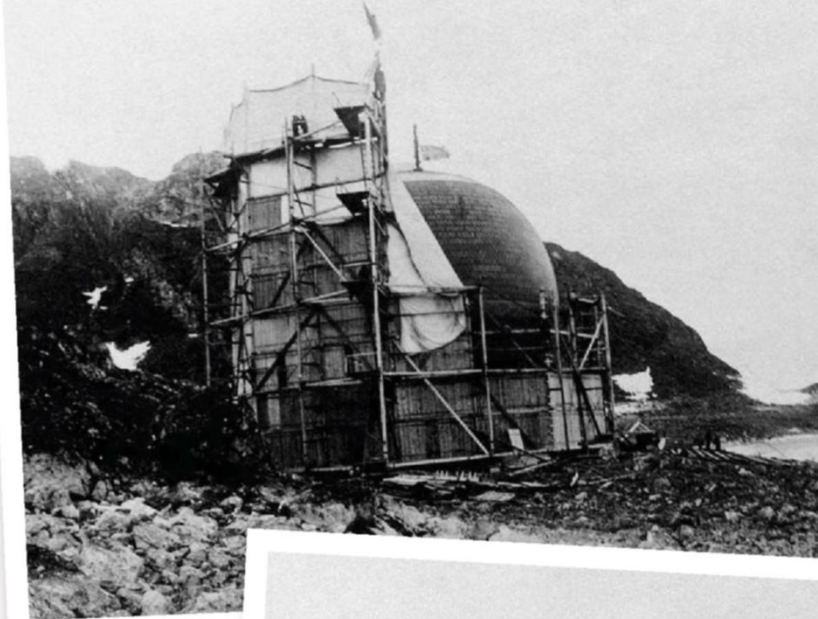
A gifted scientist, 24-year-old Strindberg had designed a reflex camera in a sealed protective case so he could capture images of the ice and North Pole. His diary, filled with messages to his fiancée, revealed much about the expedition.

### KNUT FRÄNKEL

The only outdoorsman on the team, 27-year-old Fränkel was a civil engineer with mountaineering and Arctic experience. His remains were discovered a month after the others', when more ice had melted.

### NILS GUSTAF EKHOLM

Swedish meteorologist who left the team when the balloon failed to launch in 1896. Ekholm warned that the balloon was leaking. He went on to found the Swedish storm-warning system.



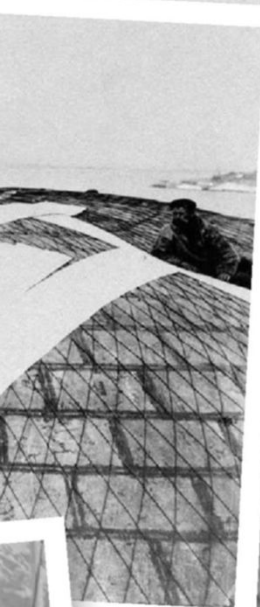
**POLAR PREPARATIONS**  
TOP-DOWN: Andrée's balloon is hoisted onto Spitsbergen island in the Svalbard archipelago; at the launch site of Danskøya, the Örnen is housed in a rudimentary structure; men check the balloon's waterproofing; the last toast before lift-off – Fränkel, Strindberg and Andrée are seated on the left







**THE THREE HOPEFULS**  
The trio (left to right) Andrée, Fränkel and Strindberg ahead of their flight in 1897



**295**

The distance, in miles covered by the Örnen before its final landing on the pack ice

**RISING DAMP**  
The Örnen's lift-off from Danskøya in 1897 doesn't quite go to plan

do not happily mix, a specially designed primus stove was built, which could be suspended eight metres below the basket for cooking.

Seemingly, the balloon wasn't tested prior to delivery. As such, Andrée's first attempt at launching it was an abject disaster. It was 1896, and he'd recruited Nils Strindberg, a talented young chemist, physicist and budding photographer, and Nils Gustaf Ekholm, an experienced middle-aged Arctic meteorological researcher who'd led an earlier expedition to Spitsbergen that Andrée had joined.

At the lift-off zone in Danskøya, Svalbard, the predicted prevailing wind from the south didn't materialise, with gusts blustering in from the north instead. The expedition remained weather stranded throughout June and July. Eventually, on 17 August, Andrée conceded defeat and the balloon was deflated along with his ambitions.

Meanwhile, Ekholm, after filling and emptying the balloon, had realised that it wouldn't hold enough hydrogen to get to the North Pole, let alone beyond it. Gas was seeping out through millions of little holes in the stitched seams of the balloon and he calculated that, with luck, they would get 17 days of flight – nowhere near the 30 they'd planned.

The reality of the situation was even worse. Andrée – probably panicking about negative publicity and the reactions of his sponsors – had secretly ordered the balloon to be refilled with additional hydrogen while they'd been waiting for the wind to turn, so it was leaking even more than Ekholm realised. Upon learning of this deception, the senior man bailed and was replaced for the fateful 1897 expedition by Knut Fränkel, a 27-year-old engineer.

Andrée attempted to fix the leakage by varnishing the Örnen's seams. When this failed, the balloon maker (among others) advised that the trip be delayed until the bag was rebuilt, but Andrée refused, saying: "I do not have the courage to postpone the flight again."

A new launch date was set and this time the wind was more favourable, blowing from the southwest. At 2.30pm on 11 July 1897, Andrée ordered the rope to be cut (*see 1 on map overleaf*). The support crewmember who released them lacerated his hand in the process, and allegedly exclaimed "Oh hell!" Hearing this, Andrée apparently leant over the basket and remarked: "Hell...that is where we are going." How right he was.

## UP, DOWN, UP AND AWAY

The Örnen rose into the icy northern air. Just. As soon as they cleared the hanger, the huge drag ropes created so much pull that the basket was almost plunged into the sea. Several ropes were torn from their mounts and fell, while Andrée, Strindberg and Fränkel desperately lobbed more weight over the side. The support crew on the ground watched helplessly, as 530kg of rope and 210kg of ballast was dumped within minutes of take-off.



## BLIND AMBITION

Little information was available – or at least heeded – ahead of Andrée's expedition. The leader argued that the Arctic summer would be the ideal time for the journey, as the midnight Sun would supply constant light, permitting observations and avoiding the need to anchor at night. He believed the prevailing winds would send them the right way, maintained he'd be able to steer with drag ropes regardless, and said that ice build-up would not happen – most of which turned out to be catastrophically untrue. Once on the ice, the expedition was hopelessly ill-equipped to deal with the brutal conditions.

### 1 2.30PM, 11 JULY 1897 Danskøya, Spitsbergen, Svalbard

The rope is cut and the Örnen briefly soars into the air, before almost crashing into the sea. The ropes disengage from the basket, ballast is jettisoned and the trip is off to a chaotic start.

### 2 7.30PM, 14 JULY 1897 83rd parallel north

After around ten hours of free flight and the 41 hours of traumatic bouncing, Andrée orders stricken balloon down to Earth for the final time.

### 3 JULY 22 1897 83rd parallel north

The expedition begins marching south east towards Franz Joseph Land, against the direction

of ice flow and away from the nearest caches of food.

### 4 4 AUGUST 1897 Latitude 82:7 North/ Longitude 22:43 East,

Andrée realises they've progressed just 60 miles from the crash site and decides to change course and head towards Sjuøyane (Seven Islands). After locating open water they launch their boat, but the current takes them south east, away from the islands.

### 5 17 SEPTEMBER 1897 Near Kvitøya (White Island)

Having paddled and stumbled around for weeks, surviving on the meat of polar bears and seals, the

men resign themselves to overwintering in the Arctic and make camp on a drifting floe

### 6 c21 SEPTEMBER 1897 Near Kvitøya

The floe the expedition is camped upon collides with Kvitøya and disintegrates. The men survive and decamp onto the island.

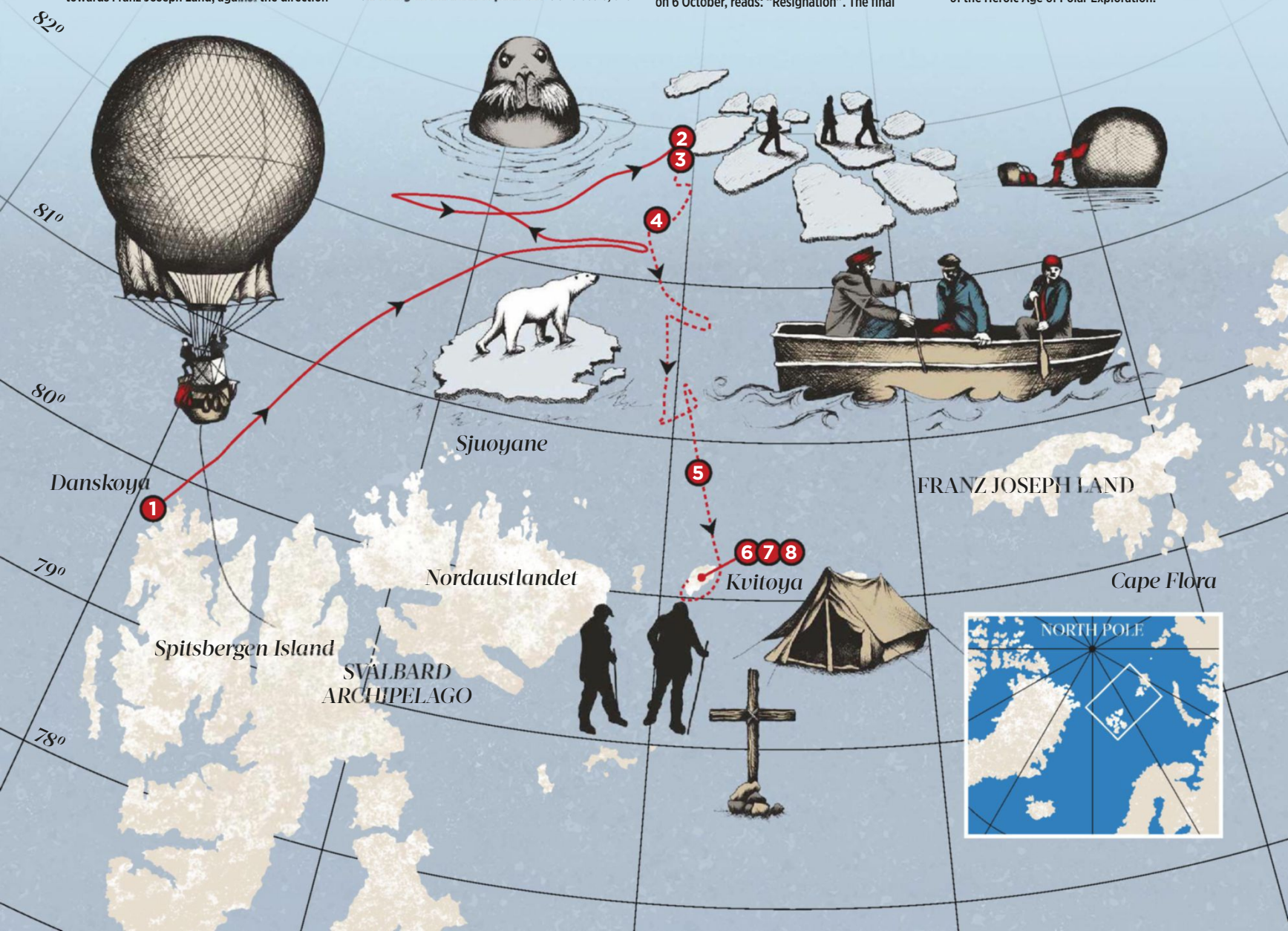
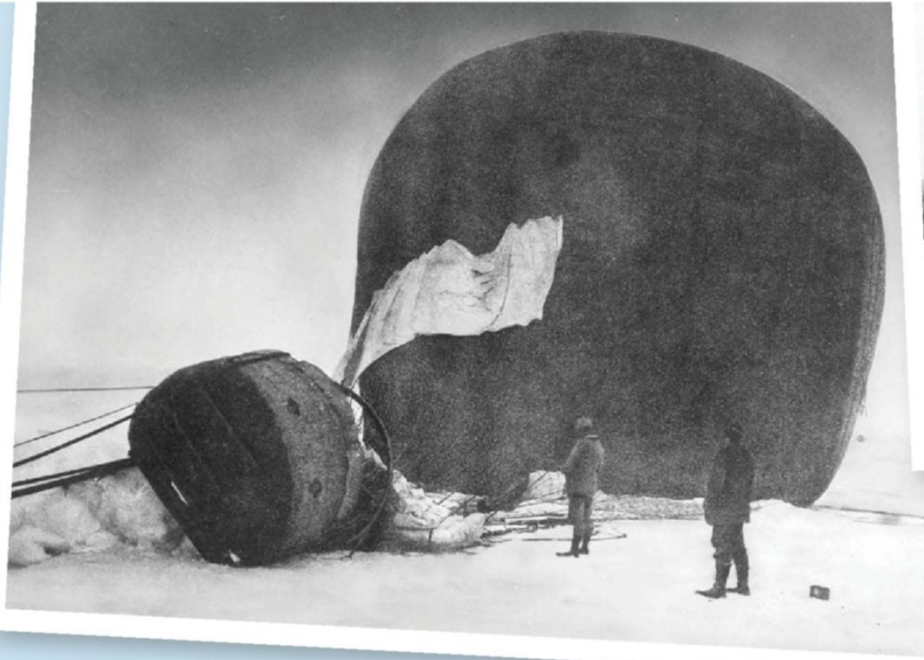
### 7 OCTOBER 1897 Kvitøya

Strindberg passes away, from what his comrades believe is a heart attack. The last entry in his diary, on 6 October, reads: "Resignation". The final

legible entry in Andrée's diary is dated 17 October – the day before his 43rd birthday – and it's believed that both he and Fränkel are dead soon after.

### 8 5 AUGUST 1930 Kvitøya

The Norwegian Bratvaag Expedition, led by Dr Gunnar Horn to hunt for seals and study icebergs, discovers the remains of Andrée's expedition, 33 years after they disappeared, bringing closure to one of the greatest mysteries of the Heroic Age of Polar Exploration.







**DISASTER ON ICE**  
**FAR LEFT:** Within three days of take-off, the doomed Örnen crash lands, leaving the expedition party stranded  
**CENTRE:** (L-R) Strindberg, Andrée and Fränkel work to get moving on the ice  
**NEAR LEFT:** Polar bears were a vital source of food for the marooned men, but such rich meat may have been their ultimate undoing

The balloon was now precariously unbalanced and the crew had lost any pretence of steerage. With so much weight gone, they immediately soared to 700 metres – far higher than they had intended – where the greater atmospheric pressure forced even more hydrogen out of the bag.

Andrée recorded the dire reality of the ever-worsening predicament accurately in his diary, but in several recovered communiqués sent by pigeon and dropped over the side in cork-encased floating buoys, he bewilderingly maintained that all was well.

For ten hours, the unstable Örnen flew at height, seeping so much hydrogen that a crash on the ice became inevitable. The surface of the balloon also became sodden, and ice began to form, adding considerable weight.

When they initially came down, however, the basket grazed the ice; the men were able to get it aloft again by jettisoning more weight. The balloon continued bouncing along, achieving short periods of flight punctuated by violent contact with the ground, for a further 41 hours, with the crew enduring a terrifying, bumpy and doomed ride.

Eventually an escape valve was jolted agape and hydrogen began gushing out. The only ballast left was survival equipment and food, so Andrée ordered the rip valves opened (2), and their final landing on 14 July was soft – in marked contrast to their immediate future.

## ICE MARCH

After falling into the first slumber they'd had for four days, the men awoke to a terrible reality. The only way out was on foot. For over a week – while camping at the crash site, sorting their equipment and eating into the rations – they contemplated which way to start walking.

To the west, towards Nordaustlandet (North East Land) and Sjuøyane (the Seven Islands), lay known caches of food and supplies. Inexplicably, however, they chose to march east, in the direction of the frozen uncertainty of Franz Joseph Land, travelling against the direction of the ice flow (3).

Although they'd carried survival gear, the trio was utterly unprepared for the brutality of an overland Arctic trek. Andrée had envisaged a sedentary expedition, soaring over the ice floes, and only Fränkel had any real outdoor skills and experience.

They showed some resourcefulness – shooting seals and polar bears for food, the latter described by Andrée as “the wandering meat shops of the Arctic” – but also wasted valuable energy dragging bizarre items around, including a white shirt and dress tie, a porcelain bowl and a heavy silver base for a vase.

Their sledges had been designed by Andrée, and proved to be as unfit for the ultra-challenging terrain as the men. The runners constantly got caught in the hummocks and progress was terribly slow as they picked their way through the pack ice, gradually discarding useless weight as the hopelessness of their predicament became evermore apparent.

Blinded by the glare of the ice, frostbitten and bruised after repeated falls, the three men stumbled on until 4 August, when Andrée took some measurements and conceded they must change direction and head instead for Sjuøyane (Seven Islands) (4). Eventually, they found open water and were able to launch their collapsible boat and begin paddling. Cruelly, though, the current took them south east, away from the islands.

By mid-September the Arctic winter was biting at their heels.

They resigned themselves to overwintering in the Arctic, and made a substantial snow camp on a drifting floe (5). But, within days, their berg collided with Kvitøya (White Island), the first piece of terra firma they'd set bloodshot eyes upon since crashing 68 days earlier (6). On 20 September, they toasted the sight of land with a feast of “seal steak, seal liver, seal brains, seal kidneys, butter, and Swedish bread, gateaux aux raisins, with raspberry sauce, and port wine for dessert.”

**30 THOUSAND**  
 The amount, in kronor, personally donated to the expedition by Sweden's King, Oscar II



The three explorers' funerals were held in Stockholm, October 1930

The celebration was premature, however. Their floe succumbed to pressure and broke up just hours later, throwing gear and supplies into the icy depths. Despite getting soaked in their efforts to recover equipment, the men survived and decamped onto the island itself.

At this stage, a faint flame of hope still perhaps flickered. Winter would be brutal, but it would freeze the floes together, offering the remote chance of sledging to North East Land. But all three men were suffering horrendously from diarrhoea and stomach cramps, probably caused by eating semi-cooked bear meat. At this point, the situation rapidly worsened.

## LOST AND FOUND

Nils Strindberg, the youngest, was the first to die (7). His comrades believed he'd suffered a heart attack, and they wedged his body into a cleft in rocks – the best burial they could have managed in the circumstances.

Andrée and Fränkel endured for another fortnight at least, and the last entry in the expedition log was made on 17 October. The writing becomes increasingly incomprehensible, however, as Andrée presumably physically and mentally faded, and the explorers' final movements are unclear.

To the outside world, the men had disappeared into thin air. Their fate remained a riddle for 33 years until, on 5 August 1930, the Norwegian Bratvaag Expedition found their remains (8) – Fränkel still wrapped in his sleeping bag and Andrée propped against a rock. 📍

## GET HOOKED

### READ

*The Ice Balloon: SA Andrée and the Heroic Age of Arctic Exploration* (2012) by Alec Wilkinson.

## MYSTERY SOLVED

When the Bratvaag Expedition discovered the remains of Andrée, Strindberg and Fränkel in 1930, one of the greatest mysteries of the era was solved. Andrée's logbook, Fränkel's meteorological journal and Strindberg's diary, camera and five exposed rolls of film were also recovered. These collectively revealed the men's movements and thoughts, but didn't confirm their cause of death, commonly believed to have been trichinosis contracted from bear meat. The men's remains were returned to Sweden and given a funeral with honours. Subsequent analysis of the trip has been scathingly critical of Andrée's pre-departure conduct and leadership.



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# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

**IN A NUTSHELL** p83 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p84  
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p86 • **WHAT IS IT?** p87

### OUR EXPERTS

#### EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



#### GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



#### SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



#### MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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**TOUGH AS NAILS**  
It would have needed larger tools than the ones to the right to trim these giant nails of Emperor Constantine

## HOW DID ANCIENT ROMANS TRIM THEIR NAILS?



It may be easy to trim one's fingernails by nibbling on them, but there are few adults dextrous, and disgusting, enough to get their toes anywhere near their mouths.

We know from Ancient Roman statues that it was fashionable to have nails short, and – as it wasn't elegant to cut one's own – this would have been the responsibility of slaves or public barbers called *tensors*. In the countryside, women known as *circitores*


travelled around offering this service, as an ancient precursor to mobile hairdressers.

The barber's equipment included shears, razors, small-blade knives, tweezers and a curved scoop for cleaning dirt under the nails. It's not clear which implement did the actual cutting, but the small knife seems to be the easiest to wield safely. As for modern nail clippers, the earliest patents date to the 1870s, so Roman techniques were in use for centuries. **GJ**

GETTY X2



# ARE KINGS LEAR AND COLE BASED ON REAL CHARACTERS?

 The earliest mentions of Kings Lear (or Leir) and Cole (Coilus) appear in Welsh forefather of British history Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain*. Written in 1136, Geoffrey's sprawling epic purports to chronicle the rulers of Britain – such as Bladud, Cole, Lear and Cymbeline (the latter two immortalised by Shakespeare), as well as Arthur, Merlin and Mordred – from earliest times until the seventh century AD.

Although the work's value as 'history' is questionable, it doesn't appear to have been wholly made-up. In writing it, Geoffrey had access to a variety of sources, some going back as far as the first century BC. Quite where he obtained these, and whether his accounts of Lear and Cole were based on real people is, unfortunately, something that is impossible to say, based on present evidence. **MR**



King Lear, seen weeping over the body of his daughter Cordelia, is a Shakespeare favourite, but a historical mystery

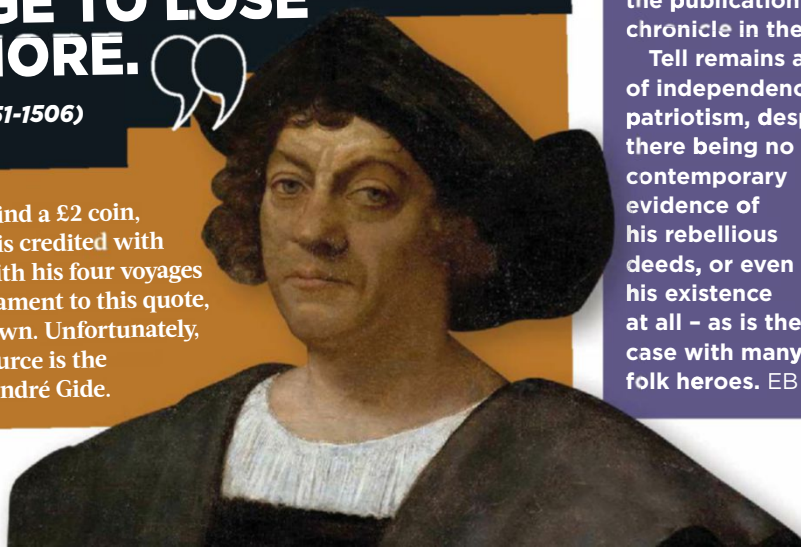
## 26,000

The age, in years, of bone 'spatulas' found at Paviland, South Wales, which may have been used as Stone Age spoons for scooping out bone marrow.

## YOU CAN NEVER CROSS THE OCEAN UNLESS YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOSE SIGHT OF SHORE.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (1451-1506)

While most of us are lucky to find a £2 coin, Italian Christopher Columbus is credited with discovering the New World. With his four voyages from 1492 to 1504, he gave testament to this quote, about stepping into the unknown. Unfortunately, he never said it – the actual source is the 20th-century French author André Gide.



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### HISTORY OF HECKLES


Audiences decrying performers is, by no means, a recent addition to theatre. In Ancient Greece, unhappy spectators made their reactions clear by hissing, hooting and kicking their heels against the seats.



#### WHY'S THE RUM GONE?

The daily tot of rum remained a tradition in the Royal Navy until 1970 – Black Tot Day

## In the Georgian Navy, what was grog?


 During the 1730s, sailors in the British Royal Navy received a daily ration of rum, as it was safer than the dirty water and it didn't spoil as quickly as beer.

However, fear of drunkenness aboard warships packed with weapons and gunpowder persuaded Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon to dilute the ration in 1740. This weaker 'grog'

was affectionately named in honour of Vernon's fondness for wearing a waterproof cloak made of grogram fabric (a blend of silk, wool and gum).

When ascorbic acid's ability to combat scurvy was medically proven in 1755, naval regulations required lime to be added to grog, thereby inspiring the 'limeys' nickname given to Brits in America and Australia. **GJ**

## WHO WAS WILLIAM TELL?

 At the mention of William Tell, most envisage a man shooting an apple sat on his son's head, and perhaps hear Rossini's *Overture*.

Swiss legends present him as a freedom-fighting peasant of the early 1300s, who refused to pay tribute to a local official and was challenged to perform his famous feat of marksmanship to save his life. He exacts revenge by killing the governor, inspiring his fellow men to cast off their oppressors. The earliest account dates to the 15th century, and Tell was cemented as a figure of national pride with the publication of a Swiss chronicle in the 1730s.

Tell remains a symbol of independence and patriotism, despite there being no contemporary evidence of his rebellious deeds, or even his existence at all – as is the case with many folk heroes. **EB**





## IN A NUTSHELL

# THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The United States never wants to repeat the suffering of the thirties, even if it inspired some of its greatest art



### Where did the Great Depression affect?

The decade-long global economic downturn, which became known as the Great Depression, began in the United States in 1929 after the Wall Street stock market crash. Although America had furthest to fall, the effects were felt everywhere.

### What led to America's financial fail?

After the Americans wrested their independence from Britain and went through their own civil war, the newly minted United States expanded to become the world's most prosperous powerhouse. As a cohesive nation, with few nearby competitors and vast natural resources, it was perhaps reasonable to assume that the former 'colonies' would overtake their European antecedents and become industrially and financially superior.

The might of the US was crucial to success for the Allies in World War I, but while the 1920s presented a new era of capitalist boom and personal freedom

– even decadence – for many, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 brought a severe shock to the world.

### Did the Wall Street Crash trigger the Great Depression?

The 'Black Tuesday' of 29 October 1929 remains the single greatest financial disaster in US history. From the excess of the 'Roaring Twenties', people suddenly found themselves with nothing. Over night, the world confronted the kind of capitalistic fall from grace, which reminded the international stock exchange that boom can, and will, lead to bust.

The Crash, however, wasn't the single cause of the depression. In fact, financial recovery looked hopeful for some time after. In a few months, the markets rallied to early 1929 levels. Yet fear had spread among consumers and investors, and with no upswing of confidence to be found, further storms lay ahead.

### How was it different to other capitalist failures?

In America at least, a more traditional source of suffering coincided with the financial situation. A great drought gripped the American heartlands, displacing hundreds of thousands of people, forced to travel to find work. National unemployment levels reached 20 per cent at the height of the economic struggle, and even families with work saw their income drop by an average of 40 per cent. Shanty towns rose in the most stricken areas, soon being labelled 'Hoovervilles', after the President under whose watch the crisis had happened.

### And presumably it was no better over in Britain?

It was the North of England, and industrial centres across Britain, that were hardest hit. It resulted in the Jarrow March of 1936, in which 200 impoverished shipbuilders and other industrial workers marched nearly 300 miles to present a petition to Westminster to reopen the shipyards, with a crushing lack of success. As many European countries

were in debt from World War I, the international financial crisis proved sluggish in recovery. Improvements were only evident by the end of the decade, just in time for another expensive World War to break out.

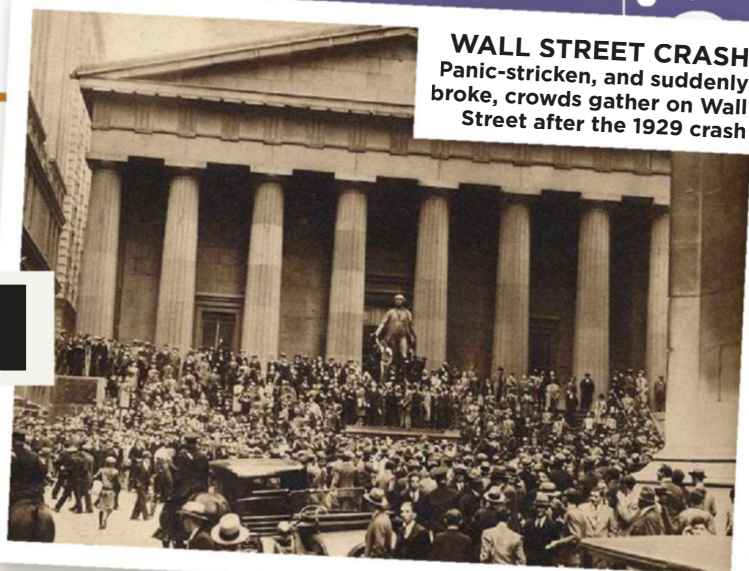
### When did commerce recover?

There was no magic solution to the depression, but a series of schemes in each country were designed to reverse the downturn. In America, Franklin Roosevelt, President since 1933, promoted his 'New Deal' as a call to arms for greater equality, geared towards the 'Three Rs' – relief, recovery and reform. In truth, the US government was improvising, and no single central policy provided a cure for the sick economy. It was just, as in every country, a slow, painful grind, and modern economic recovery is no different.

### Unemployment, starvation, and war. The Great Depression seems very well named.

As in all tragedies – be they localised or global, like the Great Depression – there does often tend to be an artistic response to look towards, at least.

American novelist John Steinbeck's two great works *Mice And Men* and *The Grapes Of Wrath* were centrally themed around the experiences of American workers in the 1930s. Moreover, arguably the greatest hit record of the period was *Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?*, which was written in 1931 and popularised around the struggling world by Bing Crosby.



**WALL STREET CRASH**  
Panic-stricken, and suddenly broke, crowds gather on Wall Street after the 1929 crash



**DOWN AND OUT**  
As FDR's New Deal hoped to re-settle struggling families (using posters like above), workers marched in Britain (left)





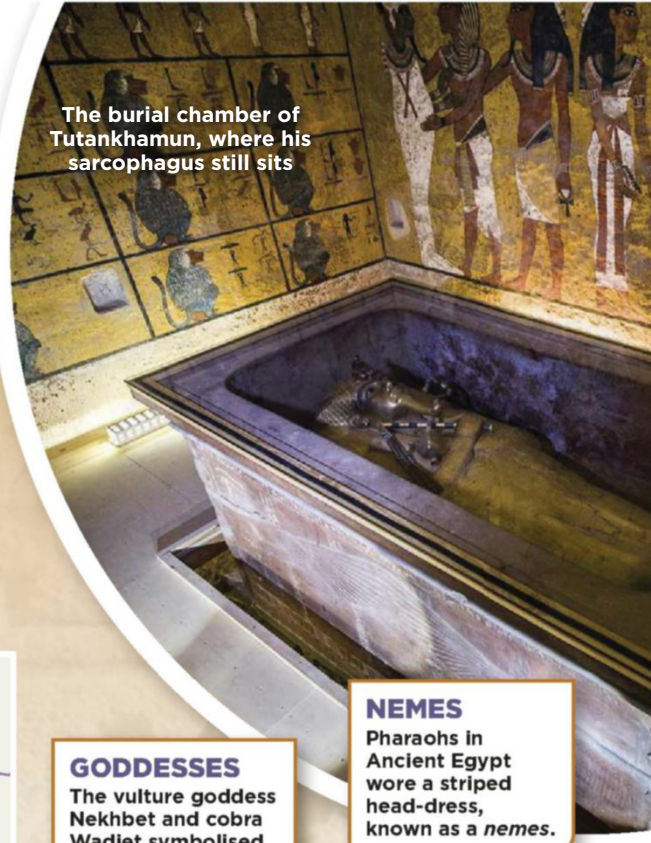
# HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

## EGYPTIAN MUMMIES

How Egyptian skill kept the dead protected for millennia – including the most famous mummy of them all, Tutankhamun

**GOAL** Ancient Egyptians believed that eternal life after death could be attained, but only if they had been properly prepared. So as early as the fourth millennium BC, the process of mummification transformed the dead into a vessel, which their *ba* (soul) could recognise.

Yet in sending a body to the afterlife, the Egyptians succeeded in preserving them on Earth until their civilisation was long gone. Just look at the 'Boy King', Tutankhamun.



The burial chamber of Tutankhamun, where his sarcophagus still sits

**NEMES**  
Pharaohs in Ancient Egypt wore a striped head-dress, known as a *nemes*.

**GODDESSES**  
The vulture goddess Nekhbet and cobra Wadjet symbolised Tutankhamun's rule of both Upper and Lower Egypt.

**PRECIOUS STONES**  
The mask's eyes are made from quartz, obsidian for the pupils and lapis lazuli for the eyebrows.

**BEARD**  
In 2014, the plaited beard fell off, leading to eight employees of the Egyptian Museum being charged.

**WEIGHT: 10.23KG**



**TUT'S DEATH MASK**  
Tutankhamun's golden death mask, discovered in 1925, is perhaps the most famous piece of Ancient Egyptian art.

### HOW TO MAKE A MUMMY

To be done properly, the process of embalming and mummification took a while – 70 days to be exact. Yet the care and technique demonstrated allowed mummies to survive for thousands of years.



**1 REMOVE THE BRAIN**  
After the body is washed in wine or water from the Nile, the embalmers (wearing a mask of Anubis, god of the dead) pull out the brain through the nose with a hook.



**2 DRY OUT THE BODY**  
Internal organs are removed through an incision in the left side of the torso, except the heart. The body is then covered with natron (natural salt) for 40 days to dry out.



**3 OIL AND STUFF**  
Oil is rubbed to smooth the skin, while the body is stuffed with linen or sawdust to make it more lifelike. The preserved organs are either placed back into the body, or into special canopic jars.



**4 WRAPPING**  
Layer after layer of linen is wrapped around the body, using resin to glue them together. (See 'The Art of Wrapping' to the right).



**5 PLACE IN THE COFFIN(S)**  
Once the death mask is added, the body is ready to be buried in a number of decorative coffins.



**6 PREPARE FOR BURIAL**  
The most important part of the burial ritual is the 'Opening of the Mouth', which allows the dead to speak, eat and drink in the afterlife. The body is buried with their treasures and belongings.



## TUT'S COFFINS

Inside the giant stone sarcophagus, the wrapped mummy of Tutankhamun was buried in three separate coffins.

### OUTER COFFIN

The most damaged of the coffins, it was made of cypress wood and had a layer of gold foil.

### MIDDLE COFFIN

Similar to the outer coffin, but far more decorative and with precious stones.

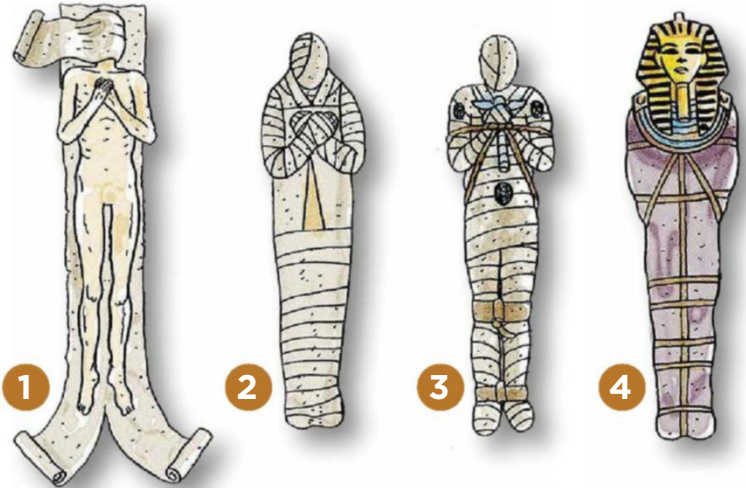
### INNER COFFIN

Although made of solid gold, it wasn't impressive when discovered by Howard Carter. The coffin was covered in a black residue, left over from anointing rituals.

## THE ART OF WRAPPING

Once the body was embalmed, it needed to be wrapped before being placed into its coffin. But unlike the standard Halloween costume, it wasn't just a matter of wrapping toilet paper round and round...

DURATION ABOUT 15 DAYS | USE OF LINEN BANDAGES MORE THAN 150 METRES



**HEAD AND LIMBS**  
Long strips of linen wrap the head and neck first, followed by the fingers and toes individually, then arms and legs.

**GLUE TOGETHER**  
After each layer, the bandages are painted with a resin-like substance, which acts as glue.

**PROTECTION**  
To ward off evil spirits, amulets and a scroll with spells from the Book of the Dead are tied between the linen.

**DEATH MASK**  
A mask is vitally important so that the spirit can recognise their body once in the afterlife.

## ANIMAL MUMMIES

While mummification was generally reserved for the rich and powerful, the animals of Ancient Egypt could be given the full treatment. This may be so that beloved pets could accompany a dead spirit in the afterlife, but animals were also mummified as sacrifices to particular gods (who took animal form).

Millions of creatures were mummified, ranging from cats and dogs to crocodiles and jackals.

### THE MUMMY

After the 1922 discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, the mummy was first examined in 1925. The oils and resin had glued it to the coffin, so Howard Carter ordered the body to be cut into pieces and put back together.

### SARCOPHAGUS

The red stone sarcophagus measures nearly 3 metres long by 1.5 metres wide, and weighs well over a tonne.

### PROTECTIVE AMULETS

A mummified dog and crocodile may represent the gods Anubis and Sobek



## WHY DO WE SAY...



### BEYOND THE PALE

Referring to an area of land, and not a bucket at all, this saying is often misunderstood. During the 14th century, England ruled a significant part of Ireland, but faced constant threats of rebellion from patriots who wanted to protect their Gaelic customs. In a bid to unify control in colonised areas, the Statutes of Kilkenny were passed in 1366, which listed lands obedient to anglicised rule and those 'beyond the pale' and loyal to Ireland. So everyone beyond were quickly seen as rebels, rogues and enemies of England.

## WHERE DOES THE WORD 'SHAMPOO' COME FROM?

Using herbs and extracts to wash hair has been around since ancient times in India, which is where the name 'shampoo' as a hygienic haircare product originated in the 1860s. It derives from the Hindi word *chāmpo*, meaning 'to press', and referred to a form of therapeutic body massage, one often witnessed by 18th-century British visitors to India. The term gained popularity thanks to Sake Dean Mahomet, a celebrity ex-soldier from Bengal, who was appointed Shampooing Surgeon to King George IV in 1822. GJ

# 116,000

The estimated number of civilians made homeless during the 1968 Battle of Hue in the Vietnam War.

## HOW OLD IS THE WHEELCHAIR?



**MOVABLE CHAIRS**  
The wicker Bath Chairs rolled in changes in mobility for the sick and infirm

Wheeled furniture, carts and wheelbarrows have transported the sick, injured, infirm and physically disabled for at least two millennia. The earliest record of a self-propelled chair, however, doesn't appear until the 17th century. Created by German watchmaker Stefan Farfler in 1655, the 'manumotive carriage' was a solid tricycle-like affair motored by a twin-action crank handle at the front. Although representing a great advance in mobility and independence, Farfler's carriage didn't catch on. It was with the development of the 'Bath Chair' (above), in the late 18th century, that the first mass-appeal wheelchair could be said to have entered production. MR

## How many people died in the Boston Massacre?

On 5 March 1770, a squadron of British soldiers fired on a mob of American patriots on a Boston street. The group of about 50 attacked a British post with nothing more than sticks, stones and snowballs, but were met with musket fire. Three died

at the scene of the Bloody Massacre at King Street, while another two succumbed afterwards.

In an entirely different kind of incident, 21 people were killed and some 150 injured nearly

150 years later in the Boston Molasses Disaster of 1919. A gigantic storage tank burst, sending a tidal wave of sugary syrup through the streets, sweeping away everything in its path. For years afterwards the pavements became sticky and sweet smelling in hot summers. SL

Boston was a hotbed for resentment towards the British before the American Revolutionary War







**VAST VEGGIES**  
On his Oxfordshire allotment in 1954, Reginald Clarke shows off his pride and joy – a giant cabbage

## DID YOU KNOW?

### COLD, CALLOUS CAESAR

During his wars in Gaul (modern-day France) between 58 and 50 BC, Julius Caesar was responsible for the deaths of more than 1 million people, and the enslavement of another million. When fighting ended, less than a third of the native population remained.

## WHAT IS IT?



This round wooden device, elaborately decorated in gold with a motif of the Turkish Baroque-Rococo style, is an astronomical instrument.

Dating back to the Ottoman Empire in 1738, the *Qiblanuma* points towards Islam's most sacred mosque, al-Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Painted inside is the courtyard of the Kaaba (the mosque's most sacred spot), date palms and olive trees – representing paradise – and fruit, emblematic of fertility and immortality. The prophet Muhammad is symbolised through a bouquet of roses.



# WHEN DID PEOPLE START KEEPING ALLOTMENTS?



In the aftermath of the Norman Conquest of 1066, the Anglo-Saxon methods of farming eroded, in the face of enclosure. Anger at this system grew. In 1649, a group called the 'Diggers', or 'the True Levellers', organised a mass public trespass on waste land to plant basic food staples. Not until the General Inclosure Act

of 1845, however, was legal provision of land for cultivation made to the labouring poor.

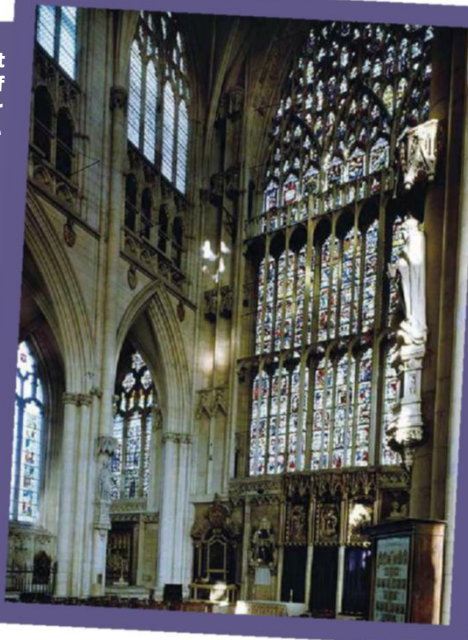
The Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908 obliged local authorities to provide land according to demand, then in 1919 – seeing the hardship of returning WWI soldiers – another law was passed, making allotments available to all. SL

## WHAT IS THE LARGEST STAINED-GLASS WINDOW IN THE WORLD?



The honour goes to the 2,079-square-metre window installed at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice, Illinois, in the 1970s. Yet more extraordinary are the windows completed before modern technological advances. The Great East Window of York Minster, a Gothic masterpiece completed in 1408 by Coventry glazier John Thornton, boasts the single largest expanse of medieval stained glass in Britain. At 23 metres tall, it fittingly depicts the story of the world from its creation to the Apocalypse. EB

The Great East Window of York Minster contains some 117 panels



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# HERE & NOW

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## ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

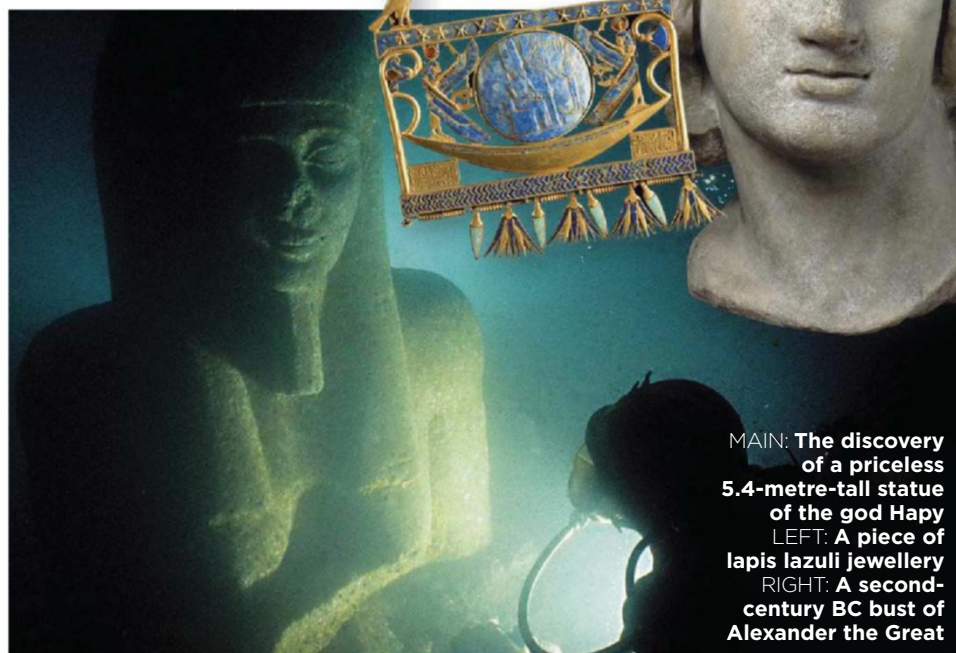
### EXHIBITION

## Sunken Cities

Runs until 27 November at the British Museum, London. Find out more at [www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

Before being swallowed by the mouth of the Mediterranean Sea in the eighth century, the cities of **Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus** were melting pots of Greek and Egyptian culture.

Submerged for more than 1,000 years, these two centres of the ancient world have now been brought to the surface once again for the British Museum's major exhibition. On display are the fruits of recent extensive **exploration of the depths of the Nile**, which discovered extraordinary items from the time of the Greek's arrivals in Egypt through to Alexander the great's conquest. **Jewellery, statues and religious artefacts** all help to bring these lost communities back to life.



MAIN: The discovery of a priceless 5.4-metre-tall statue of the god Hapy  
LEFT: A piece of lapis lazuli jewellery  
RIGHT: A second-century BC bust of Alexander the Great

FRANCK GODDIO/HILT FOUNDATION - PHOTO: CHRISTOPH GERIGK X2, THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM X1



### EVENT

## Joust!

18-19 June at Cardiff Castle. Early bird tickets available until 13 June – book yours at [www.cardiffcastle.com](http://www.cardiffcastle.com)

Ever wondered what a medieval festival was really like? Now's your chance to **earn your armour**, support your coat of arms and enjoy all the jolly merriment of years gone by without the fear of losing your head or catching the plague. A day full of fun, **noble steeds, enchanted tales, mythical beasts and gallant quests** at Cardiff Castle awaits.

The Knights of Royal England bring pomp and pageantry to Cardiff

### GAME

## Apotheon

For Playstation 4, Microsoft Windows, OS X and Linux; order at [www.apotheongame.com](http://www.apotheongame.com)

Immerse yourself in Greek myths and **show Hercules a thing or two about saving the world** with this platform adventure game. With an Ancient Greek art aesthetic, it makes for some beautiful action.





Francess Ngaboh-Smart, a teen survivor of civil war in Sierra Leone



## EXHIBITION

### Poppies: Women and War

Ends 5 June at Museum of Liverpool, free entry; more at [www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk)

Marking the centenary of World War I, this exhibition explores war through the lenses of **women left behind and on the battlefields**.

Documentary footage and first-hand accounts display the trans-cultural and timeless effects of war on women, from the World Wars to **Sierra Leone and Afghanistan**.



## TO BUY

### History Buff mug

£10, available at [www.cafepress.co.uk](http://www.cafepress.co.uk)

For the cheeky historian and caffeine lover, this mug may be what you need to get through a day stuck in the modern world. Hopefully its message – **'I'd find you more interesting if you were dead'** – won't lose you any of your friends though!



## FILM

### Race

In cinemas 3 June

Will Stephen James race to glory as Jesse Owens, who faced not only adversity but Hitler to win Olympic gold?

At the 1936 Berlin Olympics, as swastika banners flutter around the stadium, one American athlete was out to prove that Nazi Germany wasn't going to slow him down.

Telling the story of **Jesse Owens' triumph over tyranny**, *Race* (starring *Selma*'s Stephen James) charts the cataclysmic rise of a

sporting hero. From his days as a track star at Ohio State to **winning four golds** – thus breaking world records and Adolf Hitler's view of Aryan supremacy – James gives a **nuanced and powerful performance**, helped by a cast including Jeremy Irons, William Hurt, Carice van Houten and Jason Sudeikis.



## EXHIBITION

### Fashioning a Reign

Runs until 16 October at the Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh, before being displayed at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Find out more at [www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

Join in the ongoing royal birthday celebrations by taking a look back at our monarch's reign as the **Queen of style**.

The clothes on display all represent significant personal and professional moments from Elizabeth II's 90 years, from her childhood through to the **coronation**,



Unfortunately, you won't be able to try on this evening gown worn by the Queen in 1962

### christenings and more recent ceremonies.

More than 150 outfits make up the unprecedented collection.

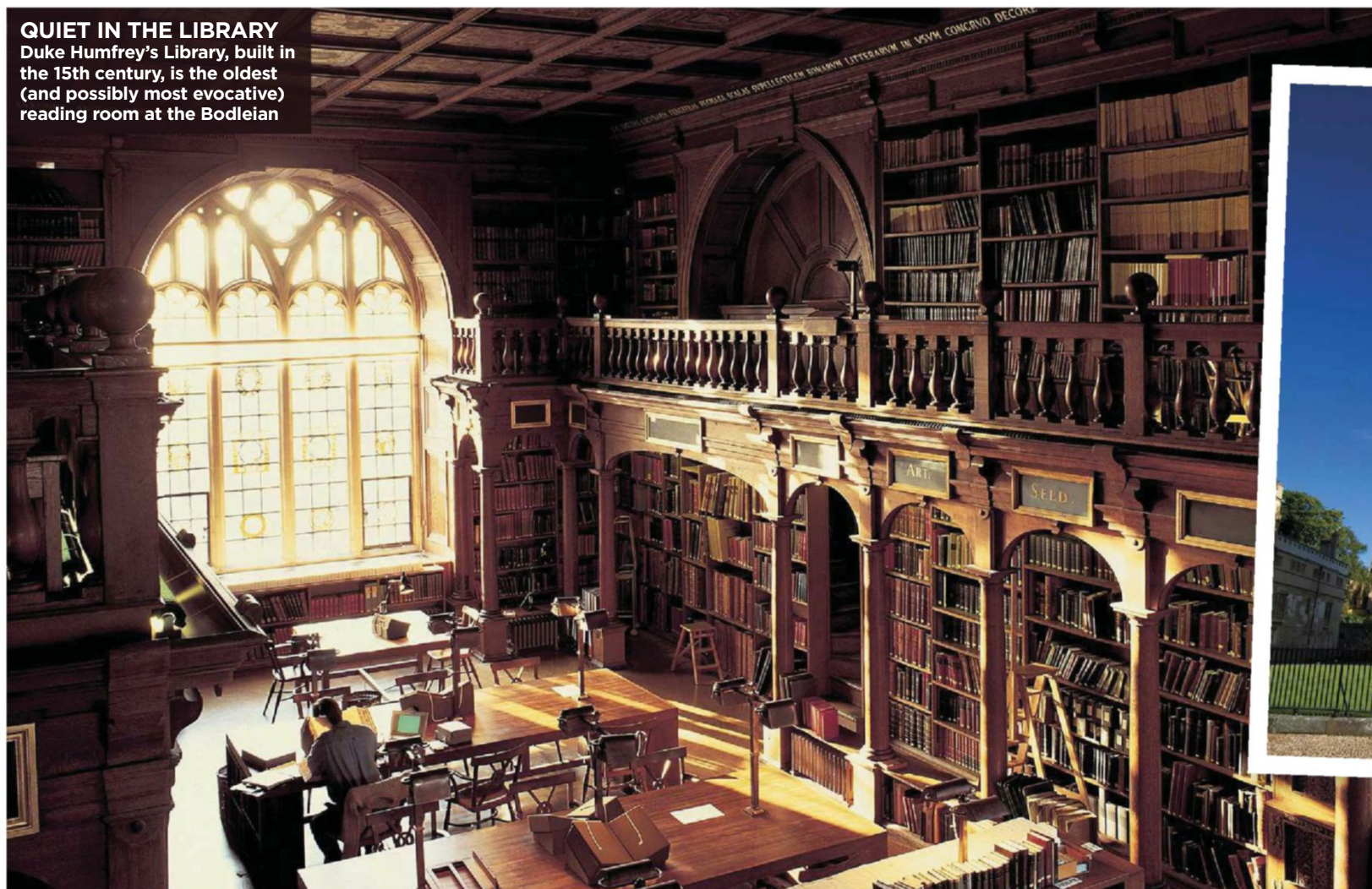
## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

► **Take Me to Neverland** – exploring JM Barrie's classic tale of Peter Pan – runs at the Florence Nightingale Museum until 30 October. [www.florence-nightingale.co.uk](http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk)

► **The Rievaulx Abbey Museum**, the 12th-century abbey dissolved by Henry VIII, has been renovated, with new artefacts and displays. Search at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)



**QUIET IN THE LIBRARY**  
Duke Humfrey's Library, built in the 15th century, is the oldest (and possibly most evocative) reading room at the Bodleian



## BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

# BODLEIAN LIBRARY

OXFORDSHIRE

Nestled into the streets of Oxford is one of Europe's oldest libraries, where millions of books are housed in some of the city's most beautiful buildings

### GETTING THERE:

The Bodleian is on Broad Street in the city centre. Parking is limited so a bus, train or the Park & Ride will be more convenient to get into Oxford.

### TIMES & PRICES:

The Bod is open all-year round (but check for closures); tours (ranging from £1-14) run 9am-5.30pm on Monday to Friday, 9am-4.30pm on Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sunday.

### FIND OUT MORE:

Call 01865 287400 or visit [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)



**S**ir Thomas Bodley, a fellow of Oxford University's Merton College and a prominent figure in the court of Elizabeth I, wanted to do something meaningful with his retirement. Seeing that the library in the heart of his beloved Oxford had fallen into decline during the 16th century – with only three books of the original collection remaining – he decided to invest in its restoration. “I could not busy myself to better purpose,” he later claimed, “than by reducing that

place (which then in every part lay ruined and waste) to the public use of students.”

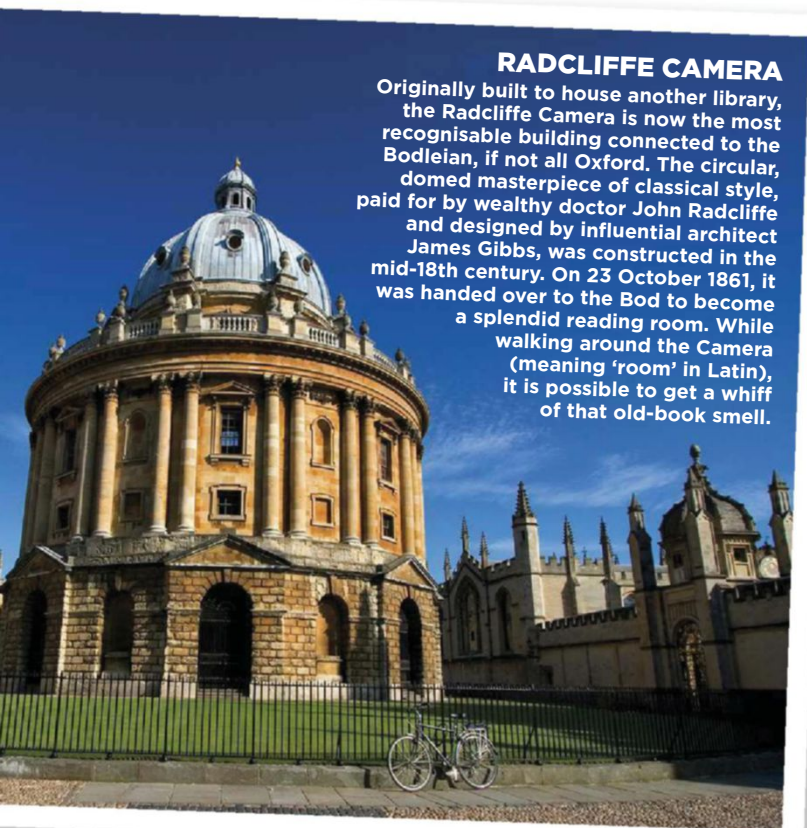
The Bodleian Library was therefore opened on 8 November 1602, boasting a 2,500-strong book-and-manuscript collection, some provided by Bodley himself. Since then, the library has never stopped growing and currently holds over 12 million publications (only the British Library can boast more in Britain). Its numerous buildings help define the Oxford panorama, as well as offering

those walking through the city a glimpse of a hallowed past.

### OPENING CHAPTERS

Before it became ‘the Bod’, the University’s first library was set up c1320. Bishop of Worcester Thomas Cobham compiled a collection of ‘chained books’ (which were literally chained to the shelves) in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin. A single room was sufficient until Humfrey, the Duke of Gloucester and brother of King Henry V, presented his priceless





### RADCLIFFE CAMERA

Originally built to house another library, the Radcliffe Camera is now the most recognisable building connected to the Bodleian, if not all Oxford. The circular, domed masterpiece of classical style, paid for by wealthy doctor John Radcliffe and designed by influential architect James Gibbs, was constructed in the mid-18th century. On 23 October 1861, it was handed over to the Bod to become a splendid reading room. While walking around the Camera (meaning 'room' in Latin), it is possible to get a whiff of that old-book smell.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



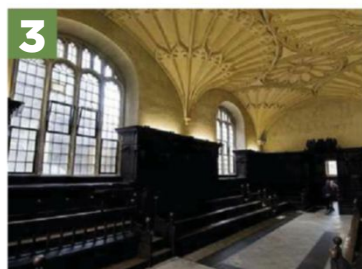
### TOWER OF FIVE ORDERS

Find this entrance, so-named as it is made up of five different styles of classical column – Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite, in the Schools Quadrangle.



### DIVINITY SCHOOL

Built in the 15th century, this room was used for lectures and exams. Its gothic ceiling made it a fitting setting for Hogwarts' hospital wing in the first two *Harry Potter* films.



### CONVOCATION HOUSE

During Charles II's reign, this was the occasional chamber house for MPs. One section is still known as the 'Selden End' after lawyer John Selden, who donated 8,000 books.



### THINGS TO SEE

There are always exhibitions, talks and events to be found in the library's buildings. Check what's coming up at the Bodleian website: [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

collection of 300 manuscripts and the money for a larger library. In 1488, Duke Humfrey's Library was opened.

Although today it is the oldest reading room still in use – and a popular one, having appeared in films such as *Harry Potter* – Duke Humfrey's closed its doors after 60 years. Poverty, more college libraries and the Dean of Christ Church, who was on a mission to purge "superstitious books and images", contributed to its decline. Many tomes were removed; some were even burnt. If it wasn't for Bodley, this would have been the end of the library's tale.

But the retiree refitted Duke Humfrey's, acquired surrounding buildings and organised the construction of new ones. Even after his death in 1613, developments continued. All the while, the number of books rose – with texts coming from as far as the Ottoman Empire and China. Yet perhaps Bodley's most significant achievement was his 1610 agreement with the

## "The Bod holds over 12 million books"

Stationers' Company of London, entitling the library to a copy of every book published in England. This was the foundation of 'legal deposit' libraries, of which the Bod is one of only six in Britain and Ireland today.

In 1914, the collection passed the million mark, prompting further building work. The New Bodleian, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (of Battersea Power Station, Liverpool Cathedral and red telephone box fame), was finished in 1940. It is mostly underground, with a tunnel connecting it to older buildings.

### HIT THE BOOKS

If you're hoping to pop in and borrow something, you'll be disappointed as the Bod is a non-lending library. Not even Charles I

could get permission to take a book away in 1645. And those who wish to sit in and read have to sign a declaration, promising not to "mark, deface or injure" the books and "not to bring into the Library, or kindle therein, any fire or flame".

The best way to experience the Bod is with one of the many guided tours, which take in the most iconic of the buildings. The 30-minute tour (£6) goes through Duke Humfrey's and the Divinity School. For those with more time (and £2 more to spend), take the hour-long trip, which also goes through Convocation House and the Chancellor's Court (the University's former court room). For history and book-lovers visiting Oxford, the Bod is a real treat – from cover to cover. 📖

## WHY NOT VISIT...

*There is so much to see in Oxford, but here are a few ideas...*

### ST MICHAEL AT THE NORTH GATE

One of the hidden gems of Oxford, make sure you climb the 97 steps of the Saxon tower (the city's oldest building) for a great view.

[www.smng.org.uk](http://www.smng.org.uk)

### ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

This world-famous museum, founded in 1683, could take up a whole day, and you'll still only see a portion of the exhibitions.

[www.ashmolean.org](http://www.ashmolean.org)

### SHELDONIAN THEATRE

The University's ceremonial hall is open to visitors when not in use, and hosts concerts regularly. Or you can just walk round the building, enjoying the iconic Emperors' Heads.

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian)



## PAST LIVES

HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

# REMEMBERING BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

Jon Bauckham lifts the lid on Britain's child migration schemes, which transported vulnerable boys and girls across the world



Boys from St Nicholas Industrial School in Essex wait with their labelled luggage before emigrating to Canada in 1908

### SAYING SORRY

In 2010, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown formally apologised for the migration of children – the “**deportation of the innocents**”, as he termed it. “Instead of caring for them, this country turned its back,” he remarked.

## READER'S STORY



**Liz Loveland**,  
Boston,  
Massachusetts

My Canadian  
great-great-great-

grandparents, James and Henrietta Brown, looked after a British ‘Home Child’ named Louisa Cligg.

I first learned of Louisa's existence through my cousin, who had inherited a family photograph with her in – she was simply identified on the back as ‘adopted daughter’. Through further research, I discovered she came from Britain as part of one of Miss Macpherson's schemes (she organised child migration from London to Canada).

I think Louisa was well looked after. The fact my ancestors had a photograph taken with her seems unusual for a Home Child. James and Henrietta held strong Baptist beliefs and may have felt it was their responsibility to care for someone who grew up in poverty. They had already raised six children to adulthood, so could have been feeling lonely with no one else in the house for so long.

While some of the children like Louisa ended up having better lives than they would have had in Britain, many were abused or used for free labour. Understandably, descendants of other children are still upset about the way their forebears were treated.

One of the lucky ones, Louisa Cligg – the ‘adopted daughter’ of Liz's ancestors

One day in May 1912, eight-year-old Grace Griffin, along with older sister Lillian, boarded the SS *Corsican*. The London-born girls were to start new lives in Canada, after childhoods spent in care – their father committed suicide, their mother's new husband refused to have anything to do with them and, in 1911, their mother died. Across the Atlantic, they hoped to meet loving families that would look after them.

Shipping children to other countries may sound an extreme measure today, but the arrangement was by no means unusual at the time. Grace and Lillian were two of an estimated 100,000 youngsters sent overseas on assisted emigration schemes in the 19th and 20th centuries. With disease and overcrowding rife in British children's homes, charities felt that transportation – mainly to Canada, but also Australia, New Zealand and South Africa – was best.

For many, this belief was to be misguided. Already saddled with feelings of rejection, ‘Home Children’ found themselves in a strange, hostile new land. After stepping off the boat, they would be taken to receiving homes to be picked out by host families, but many were separated from their siblings. Grace never saw her sister again.

## TROUBLED EXISTENCE

Boys and girls were usually indentured to work as household servants or on farms, where they spent their days undertaking tough, rural labour. Their troubled existence was not helped by the deep-seated distrust of Home Children felt by large numbers, who believed their countries were dumping grounds for British ne'er-do-wells.



“These waifs and strays are tainted and corrupt with moral slime and filth, inherited from parents and surroundings of the most foul and disgusting character,” declared Toronto politician Frederic Thomas Nicholls in 1891. “There is no power whatever that can cleanse the lepers so as to fit them to become desirable citizens of Canada.”

There was little fun to be had, as some of the newcomers were even prevented from mixing with local children. “You did not get out to play with other boys and girls,” former Home Child Joseph Betts would later recall. “It was all work.”

After moving from home to home and enduring years of neglect, Grace Griffin settled with a caring family in Northern Ontario and went on to live a long, happy life. But there were thousands of Home Children whose stories remain untold – all victims of a chapter in British history that has been conveniently forgotten. Ⓢ

## GET HOOKED

Learn about Grace Griffin's life in *Promises of Home: Stories of Canada's British Home Children*, a book of experiences by her granddaughter, Rose McCormick Brandon. The British Home Child Registry, with details of more than 80,000 children, can be accessed at [canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com](http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com).

## DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...

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## Buttercups

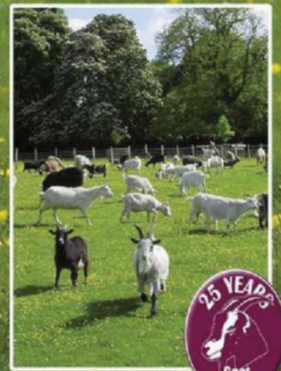
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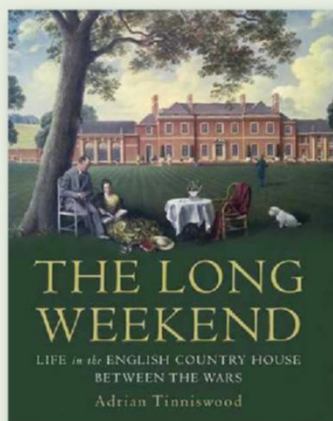


Registered Charity Number 1099627



# BOOKS

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



### The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House Between the Wars

By Adrian Tinniswood  
Jonathan Cape, £25,  
416 pages, hardback

The world of the 20th-century English country estate is an evocative one – portrayed often in books and TV series – of drinks on the lawn at sunset, fading glamour and repressed emotion in the rooms inside. But is this image fair?

Tinniswood's hugely enjoyable book explores the tales of England's country houses and their residents, from the earls to the cooks. The period between the World Wars, he argues, may have been a time of upheaval, but it certainly didn't represent the end of the story. This is a great read, with plenty of first-hand accounts throughout.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Adrian Tinniswood** looks beyond the TV depictions of English country houses and finds new aesthetics and some interesting characters

### What inspired you to write this book?

I've always been intrigued to know just what happened to the stately homes of England after World War I. In 1919, *Country Life* magazine declared "people who formerly lived in very large houses are now getting out... as to who goes in is another matter". I wanted to know who went in, and why.

### What misconceptions would you like your book to dispel?

The years between the World Wars have always been seen as a period that witnessed the end of the country house. One by one, so the story goes, the stately homes of England were deserted, dismantled and demolished; their estates broken up; oaks felled and parks given over to suburban sprawl. Yet

that story masks an alternative narrative, existing side by side with the familiar tale of woe. This time witnessed new families buying, borrowing and sometimes building themselves a country house, which introduced new aesthetics, new social structures and new meanings to an old tradition. A narrative, in fact, which saw new life in the country house.

### Are there stories from this world that stood out?

The guides at Stanford Hall, in Leicestershire, used to tell the

story of how, in the 1920s, Lord and Lady Braye were baffled by how they could run electricity cables through their ballroom without wrecking the delicate 18th-century stuccowork.

Then someone had a bright idea. They prised up a floor board at one end and dropped a dead rabbit into the void, before prising up a floor board at the other end and unleashing a ferret with a string tied to his collar. When the ferret reached the rabbit, the string was used to pull through a cable and hey presto! The problem was solved.

### Was there a particular individual you liked?

It would have to be Sir Philip Sassoon, the rich descendant of a Baghdadi Jewish banking family, who seems to

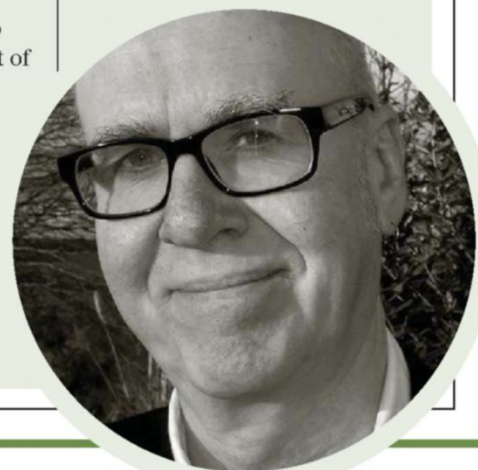
shimmer through every memoir of the period. Sassoon built two country houses – one at Trent Park in Hertfordshire, an elegant neo-Georgian mansion, where he played out his fantasies of English landed life.

The other, Port Lympne in Kent, was the archetype of the outsider's country house. An outrageous example of Hollywood Alhambra, it was where he entertained an extraordinary list of characters with his lavish hospitality, from Winston Churchill and Lloyd George to Charlie Chaplin and Lawrence of Arabia.



Where better for Lord Berners to paint his model and her horse than his Berkshire country house?

**"They prised up a floor board and dropped a dead rabbit in"**





## THE BEST OF THE REST



### The Secret Lore of London

**Edited by John Matthews with Caroline Wise**  
Coronet, £14.99, 368 pages, paperback

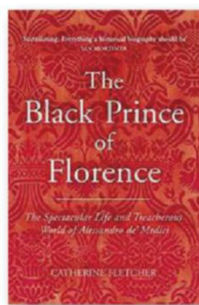
Navigate the stories – both real and legendary – of Britain's capital city with this diverse collection, featuring the London Stone (now in the wall of a WHSmith) and the two giants Gog and Magog. By its nature, it's a mixed bag, but this offers a fascinating look at how our ancestors viewed their streets, and a guide to the sites of legends and myths.



### Britain's War: Into Battle, 1937-1941

**By Daniel Todman**  
Allen Lane, £30, 848 pages, hardback

How did Britain prepare for, and cope with, the extreme strain of the impending World War II? That's the question at the heart of Todman's weighty book, which focuses as much on the lives of ordinary British people as it does the military successes (and failures) of the nation. This is only his first volume of this epochal time, with a second covering 1942 to Indian independence in 1947.



### The Black Prince of Florence

**By Catherine Fletcher**  
Bodley Head, £20, 336 pages, hardback,

Alessandro de' Medici – the illegitimate, so-called 'half-negro' son of a duke – was just 19 years old when propelled to the heart of Italian politics. Seven years later, he was dead. His extraordinary, if brief, time in power, with all its family rivalry, adultery, betrayal, conspiracy and assassinations, is vividly captured in Fletcher's well-researched biography.

## READ UP ON...

### THE SPACE RACE

Want to get up to speed with the frantic Cold War battle to send humanity into orbit? Here are three ways to blast off...



To infinity and beyond – Yuri Gagarin was the first to reach the stars

#### Space Race: the Battle to Rule the Heavens

**By Deborah Cadbury (2006)**

As the Cold War tightened its grip, exactly how important was it for the US and USSR to be the first into space? And who were the brilliant scientists responsible for making it happen? Find out in this dynamic take on the Space Race.



BEST FOR...  
THE US VS THE USSR

#### Red Moon Rising

**By Matthew Brzezinski (2007)**

On 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union launched the first human-made satellite, Sputnik 1. Brzezinski draws on secret documents and interviews to capture what this meant to both sides in his thrilling narrative.

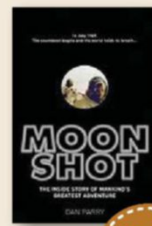


BEST FOR...  
EARLY SOVIET SUCCESS

#### Moonshot: the Inside Story of Mankind's Greatest Adventure

**By Dan Parry (2009)**

Armstrong, Aldrin, Collins – their names, and their success in reaching the Moon on 20 July 1969, are legendary. Yet this book goes further, asking why they were right for the task, and what effect the experience had.



BEST FOR...  
THE MOON LANDING

## VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH

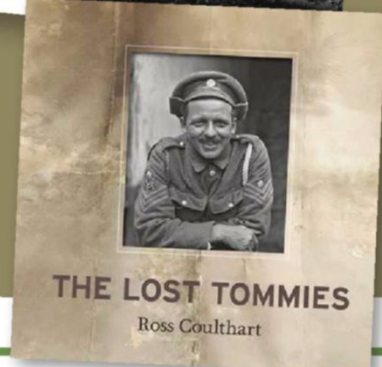


These stunning photographs were lost for a century, until found abandoned in a French farmhouse

### The Lost Tommies

**By Ross Coulthart**  
William Collins, £40, 400 pages, hardback

Vignacourt, France, during World War I: a photographer takes portrait shots of British 'Tommies' as they prepare for the Western Front. A century later, these photos are discovered. Reproduced in this beautiful collection, they're a moving testament to the cost of war.

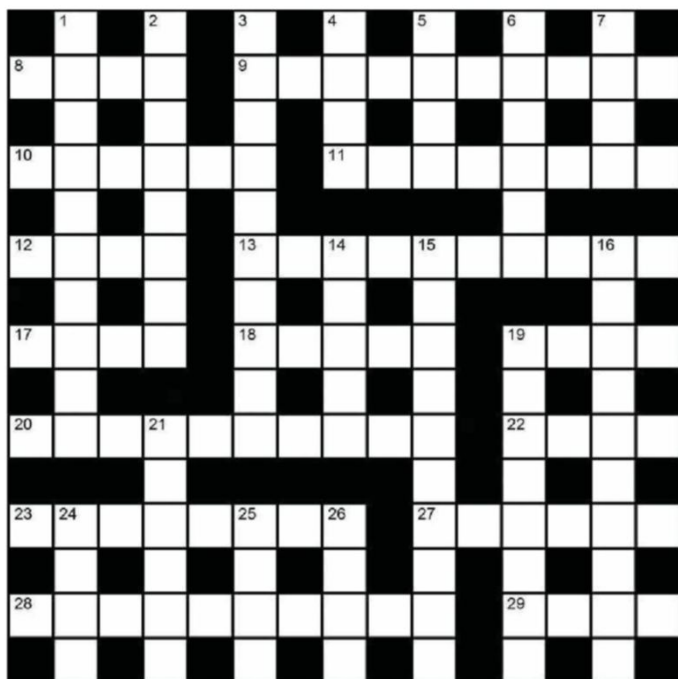




## CROSSWORD N° 30

You could be one of three prize winners if you complete this month's historical crossword

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 8** Robert \_\_\_\_ (1913–54), Acclaimed Hungarian-born war photographer, present at Omaha Beach on D-Day (4)  
**9** Leeds suburb, home to a Test cricket ground since 1899 (10)  
**10** “I am the captain of \_\_\_\_”, from WE Henley’s poem, *Invictus* (published 1888) (2,4)  
**11** See 12  
**12/11** Anti-heroine of a 1722 novel by Daniel Defoe (4,8)  
**13** American composer (1891–1964), known for *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Anything Goes* (4,6)  
**17** Historic market town in south Norfolk (4)  
**18** Lionel \_\_\_\_, Argentine footballer, five-time winner of the FIFA Ballon d’Or (5)

- 19** Surname shared by the 41st and 43rd Presidents of the United States (4)  
**20** East African territory, formally administered by Britain from 1922 to 1961 (10)  
**22** A character in a Germanic writing system, in the *futhork* alphabet for instance (4)  
**23** Name taken by 13 Popes between AD 401 and 1724 (8)  
**27** “\_\_\_\_, dear boy”, the reputed reply of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan when asked what posed the greatest threat to a government (6)  
**28** Roy \_\_\_\_ (b.1932), Labour politician, Shadow Home Secretary from 1987 to 1992 (10)  
**29** Pen-name of essayist Charles Lamb (1775–1834) (4)

## DOWN

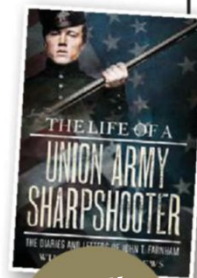
- 1** Legendary naked wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia (4,6)  
**2** A fourth-century BC courtier from an ancient parable, made to sit under a sword hanging by a single thread (8)  
**3** John D \_\_\_\_ (1925–99), White House lawyer jailed for his part in the Watergate affair (10)  
**4** Golden \_\_\_\_, idol created by the Israelites in Moses’s absence, according to the Book of Exodus (4)  
**5** Birth-city of Galileo and mathematician Fibonacci (4)  
**6** Moroccan city, destroyed by an earthquake in 1731 (6)  
**7** Legendary king of the ancient Britons – inspired a Shakespeare character (4)  
**14** Harold \_\_\_\_ (1893–1950), British political theorist and Labour Party member (5)  
**15** British satirical magazine, founded in 1961 (7,3)  
**16** Sergei \_\_\_\_ (1898–1948), Russian director of *Battleship Potemkin* (1925) (10)  
**19** George \_\_\_\_ (1685–1753), Anglo-Irish Bishop of Cloyne and noted philosopher (8)  
**21** John o’\_\_\_\_, Caithness settlement associated historically with the Dutch ferryman Jan de Groot (6)  
**24** Old Testament patriarch who supposedly lived to the age of 950 (4)  
**25** Wyatt \_\_\_\_ (1848–1929), American gunfighter, lawman and gambler (4)  
**26** “Life is as tedious as a twice-told \_\_\_\_” – from Shakespeare’s *King John* (4)

## CHANCE TO WIN

## The Life of a Union Army Sharpshooter

by William G Andrews

Experience the training, marches, battles and hospitals of the American Civil War through the diaries and letters of John T Farnham – a Union soldier who met Abraham Lincoln. Published by Fonthill Media, £25.



BOOK WORTH £25 FOR THREE WINNERS

## HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, June 2016 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **june2016@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **22 June 2016**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write ‘Do Not Contact IMC’ if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

## SOLUTION N° 28



## CROSSWORD COMPETITION TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at [www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy).

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited’s decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited



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# A-Z of History

Stop! Save some seconds so you can sample strange, scandalous and screwball stories, supplied by the super **Nige Tassell**

## SLICE OF SUCCESS

In 1928, American inventor Otto Rohwedder announced the best thing since... er, well... It was his invention, a machine that sliced and packaged bread, and it made quite an impact. Within five years, sales of sliced loaves in the United States outstripped un-sliced loaves. That's using your loaf, Rohwedder!

## STATE-OF-THE-ART SHOPPING

What did the Romans ever do for us? Well, as well as the roads, central heating and viaducts, they can be credited with the world's first shopping mall. Built in Rome between 100-110 AD, Trajan's Market – named after the man who commissioned it, Emperor Trajan – was a vast, multi-levelled building, housing around 150 shops and offices.

## Shaka's name of shame

Shaka kaSenzangakhona (the 19th-century Zulu king, better known as 'Shaka Zulu') had a fearsome reputation based on military brilliance and brutality.

The name 'Shaka', however, isn't exactly that noble in its derivation. It means 'intestinal beetle' – such a creature was believed to be the cause of his mother's swelling abdomen, rather than the illegitimate pregnancy that bore the future king.

## SAD SEND-OFF FOR SUFFRAGETTE

Arrested and imprisoned many times for her leading role in the Suffragette movement, Emmeline Pankhurst didn't quite live to see the day when women's voting rights equalled those of men. The Representation of the People Act, which extended the vote to all women over the age of 21, passed in 1928, just 18 days after Pankhurst died, aged 69.

## STONEHENGE STANDARDISATION

The word 'Stonehenge' is famous around the world, but it wasn't until the 17th century that the spelling of the name was formalised. Until then, the grand neolithic monument had been variously known as 'Stanenges', 'Stanhenge', 'Stonhenge', 'Stonheng' and 'the stone henges'.

## STINGY SHAKESPEARE?

In the event of his death in 1616, the greatest beneficiary of the Bard William Shakespeare's estate was his first-born daughter, Susanna.

To his wife Anne Hathaway, however, he bequeathed only the couple's "second-best bed with the furniture". What became of the best bed is anyone's guess.

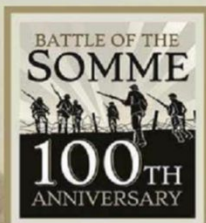
## SALINGER'S SECRET SCRIPT

As a sergeant in the US Army, the future novelist JD Salinger was one of the thousands of soldiers who captured Utah beach on D-Day. On his person in Normandy were six short stories he had written, which – when later woven together – would form the spine of his master-work, *The Catcher In The Rye*.

## Suez subterfuge

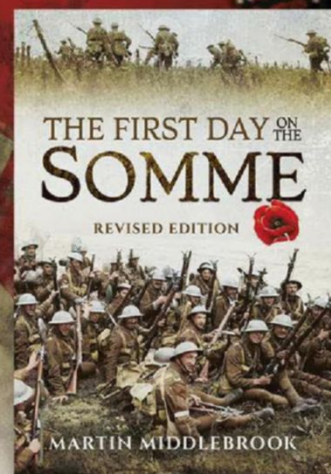
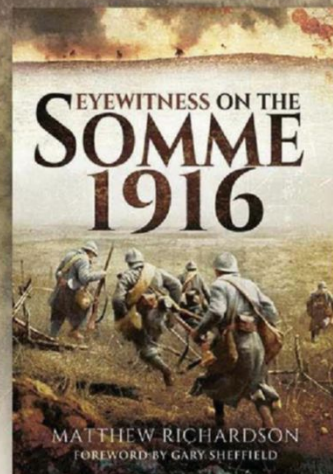
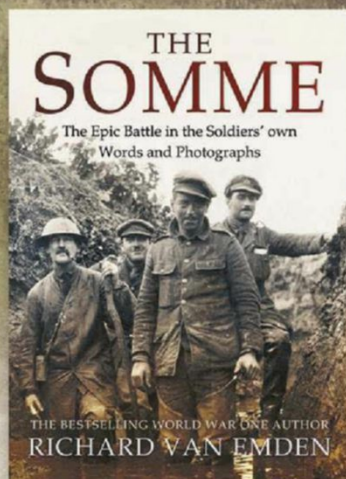
The night before the Suez Canal opened in November 1869, the captain of the Royal Navy gunvessel HMS *Newport* navigated, under the cover of darkness and without lights, to the front of the queue of vessels waiting to pass through the freshly constructed waterway. His aim: to make sure that a British ship was first to traverse the French-controlled canal the following morning – much to the British Admiralty's unofficial pride, and annoyance of the French.





# PEN AND SWORD MILITARY TITLES

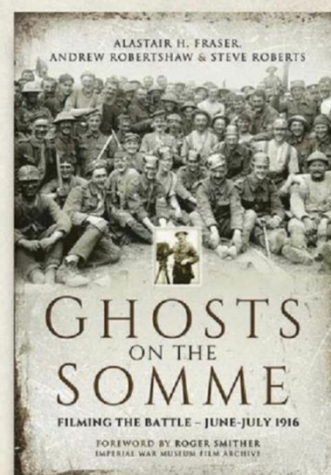
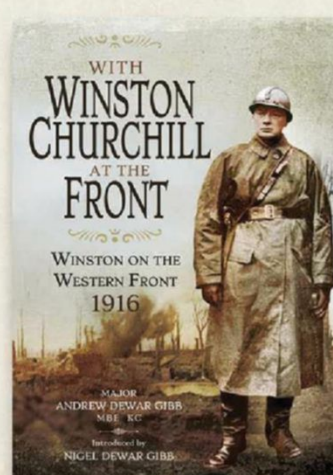
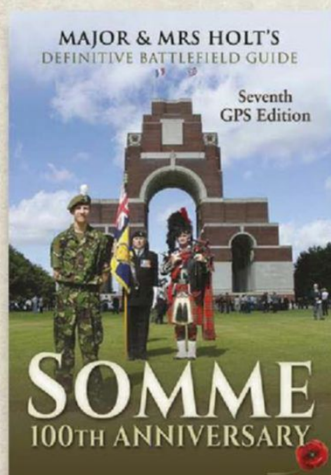
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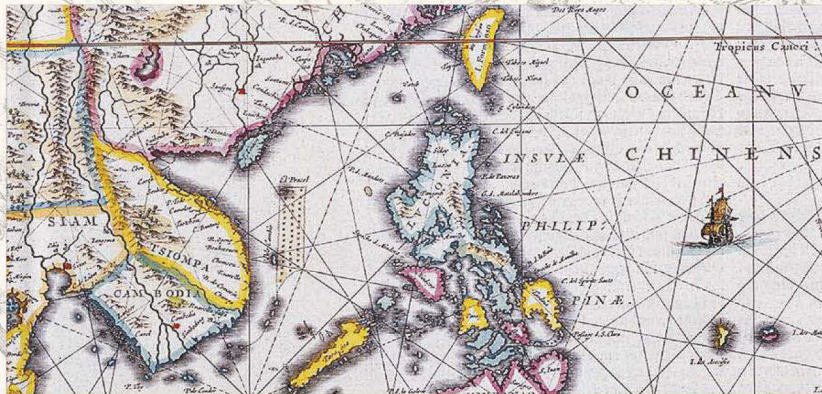
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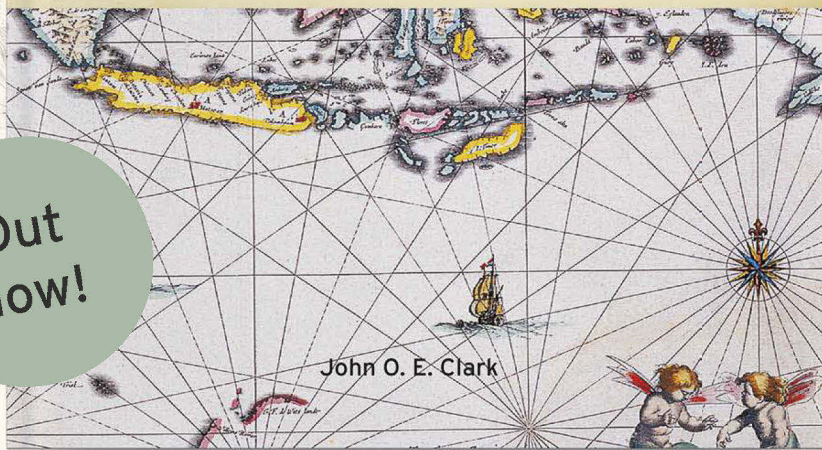


# Each map has its own story to tell...

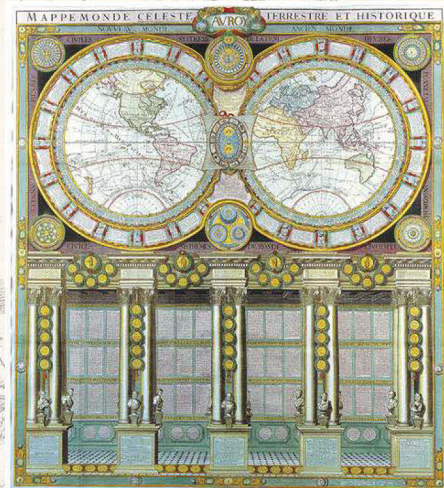


## MAPS

that Changed the World

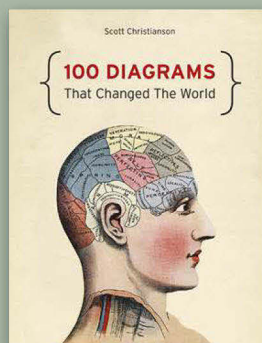
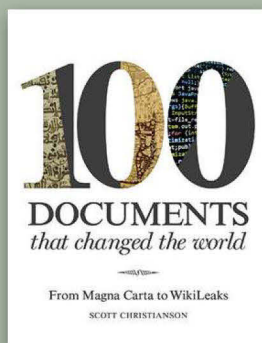


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